

Exam-week update, dropping off and picking up books, and more



For Thursday, January 7

Hit the GLIC!

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The plan for the week of January 18

Of course normally the week of January 18 is dedicated to semester exams. But as we mentioned in Mustang Minutes a few weeks ago, we will not have semester exams this year. Instead, we will be dedicating that time first for our kids, to give them additional support and to catch up on some work and skills, and then next to our colleagues, to prepare the hyflex approach that we will start sometime in the second semester. Here is the schedule for the week:

Monday January 18	Tuesday January 19	Wednesday January 20	Thursday January 21	Friday January 22
7:40 AM - 10:55 AM Half Day Students (hours 1-4)	7:40 AM - 10:55 AM Half Day Students (hours 5-7)	7:40 AM - 10:55 AM Half Day Students (hours 1-4)	7:40 AM - 10:55 AM Half Day Students (hours 5-7)	No School No Staff
11:55 AM - 2:55 PM Professional Learning / PLC	11:55 AM - 2:55 PM Professional Learning / PLC	11:55 AM - 2:55 PM Professional Learning / PLC	11:55 AM - 2:55 PM Staff Professional Hours	

Returning books from your Semester 1 classes, picking up books for Semester 2

If students have textbooks that they are ready to return now (maybe they are already done with a book in their English class, for example), they can drop those off in the vestibule of our student entrance. There is a box for book collection on the table to your right when you walk in the door. And don't forget to write your name on the inside front cover of your texts along with your teacher's name so that we know who returned it! The vestibule is open from 7:15AM to 3:45PM on Mondays through Fridays.

But, if a student has a semester-long class (for example, government), it is really important that he or she drops off that textbook before Wednesday, January 18 by 3:45 p.m. at the vestibule. We need those books back so that we can issue those to students who have those classes for the following semester.

Next, we are making plans for how we will distribute books for the second semester, and we would so appreciate it if you could save this date: **Thursday, January 21**. We will need students to come to campus at particular times so that we can safely issue your new books to you. Watch for all the details in next Thursday's edition of the Mustang Minutes. Thanks for this!



Thanks for your feedback on our most recent parent and student surveys

We have always needed your feedback around here. With 1400 students, more than 3000 parents and guardians, plus about 120 colleagues here, the only way we all can succeed is to communicate openly honestly about where we struggle and where we shine. And surveys of our parents and students play a role in this open and thoughtful communication. Nearly 500 parents and students responded back in November, and your thoughts reinforced the ideas and concerns we share. Survey respondents scored us as a 4 out of 5 in communicating effectively on all the changes we are working through, and they gave us similarly high marks in how we are responding thoughtfully to the COVID crisis. We appreciate all of that, and we are committed to working to do even better. The safety of our kids always must be our top priority.

At the same time, students and parents echoed our colleagues, saying we need to continue to find ways to support all our students in their academic progress so that they don't fall behind, and we need to continue to create opportunities for our kids to interact with one another in safe and emotionally healthy ways. We will continue to work on these areas, and we are always grateful for the ideas that parents and students have given us. So thanks -- a great deal -- for your feedback so far, and we will continue to ask for more in the weeks and months ahead.

Tuesday, January 26 will be an asynchronous learning day

We will be giving the College Board's PSAT/NMSQT test on Tuesday, January 26, to our sophomores who signed up back before the winter break. It has been decided that this will be an asynchronous learning day. For those students who have signed up for the test, be on the lookout for an email soon with detailed test-day information.

Featured Club of the Week: Math Helps Club

The Math Helps Club is a group of student tutors who help their peers with any misunderstandings or questions about a recently-learned math topic or lesson. They are able to give guidance on many different topics ranging from Pre-Algebra to Calculus I. For example, this tutoring could take place in the form of homework problems that the student doesn't know how to do, in which the tutors would be able to walk through the problems together. There is a sign-up form on the school's announcements page, where students are able to sign up for a virtual meeting time slot. The tutors are available Mondays from 3pm-4pm and Fridays from 1pm-2pm. If you would like more information, click the sign up link here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LZJ9DLJ>.

Hoping you and your family and friends had a wonderful Holiday season,

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