



Abilene ISD Instructional Q&A for Students and Parents, 4/1/2020

- 1. Q. Why is the district introducing a “significant pivot” in the Online Learning process and will now be making the online learning mandatory for all students after Easter?**
 - A. As you are aware, decisions related to education during the COVID-19 crisis are evolving day by day. Over the last week the Commissioner of Education has made it clear that all districts providing instruction during closure must “monitor student progress” along the way. TEA is increasingly emphasizing that districts must provide ways for students to show mastery of grade level TEKS and that one way to do this is for teachers to “collect student work samples” as evidence of progress monitoring for possible future auditing purposes. This is the approach we will use in Abilene ISD.
- 2. Can Seniors do their work early and finish much faster than waiting until April 13th to start and waiting until May 22 to finish?**
 - A. Yes! We would like for all seniors to submit six work assignments as fast as possible so that they can earn a passing grade for the spring semester. We are not requiring Seniors to submit work samples for six different weeks. In fact, seniors can start submitting work samples on April 6, and hopefully can get these six samples submitted as soon as possible to their teachers. We are hoping to have all senior work samples submitted by May 1.
- 3. Q. How many work samples should I submit to teachers each week? Which assignments do I pick as work samples?**
 - A. You should submit one work sample for each course each week, beginning with the fourth week of Online Learning (the week of April 13). This should be submitted directly to the teacher. You are allowed to select whichever assignment from the Online Learning (or other supplemental assignments) that you would like to share with their teachers.
- 4. Q. How should students submit their work samples to the teacher?**
 - A. There are a variety of ways to share this. The number one way to be able to do this is to take a picture of the work and email it to the teacher or send it through Remind. TEA states that *“Families who have mobile devices including cell phones and tablets may be able to take photographs of completed work and send the photos back to teachers for review.”* There may be other ways that your teacher approves of you to submit work electronically. At this time we do not have a plan for you to turn in “hard copy/paper” to your teachers.

- 5. Q. Will my teachers grade the assignments and give me a numerical grade?**

 - A. No. Teachers will not be assigning any numerical grades. They will be providing you with feedback on your work submissions, but they will not be giving you numerical grades.
- 6. Q. So I will receive a “P” (Pass) grade for the spring semester if I submit six work samples to my teacher?**

 - A. Yes, you will receive a “P” for every course in which you submit six work samples.
- 7. Q. What do I do if I forget to submit a work sample on any given week?**

 - A. Go back and complete the assignments and submit a work sample to your teacher for the missed week. Teachers will also reach out to students when they miss a week.
- 8. Q. Can I still check out a Chromebook and how will they be able to access Wi-Fi if they cannot from home?**

 - A. AISD Chromebooks have all been issued, and we no longer have any Chromebooks to issue to students/families. If you have tech support questions, please call 794-AISD.
- 9. Q. What do I do if I don't have access to Wi-Fi?**

 - A. As for Wi-Fi, you will soon begin to hear about our “Park and Learn” initiative in AISD. This is what we are calling our plan to place Wi-Fi devices on buses and drive them to designated spots in our community so that our students and families can access Wi-Fi from their neighborhoods. Since we have learned that most online learning is happening in the morning, we have a plan to send our buses out to specific spots in the community from 9:00-11:00am each morning. Since many of these spots are in parking lots, we are hopeful that families can park at these locations and use their Chromebooks in the car for this purpose. In addition to these “Park and Learn” locations, Wi-Fi has also been set up at the paved Parking Lots at Shotwell, North Parking Lot of the Abilene Convention Center, and the West Parking Lot of the Wylie Bulldog Center. You can also park at any AISD campus and access the Guest Wi-Fi from your car.
- 10. Q. What do I do if I have additional questions?**

 - A. First, contact your campus principal. If you still have additional questions, you may contact the following individuals:
 - Elementary- alison.sims@abileneisd.org
 - Middle School- karen.munoz@abileneisd.org
 - High School- ketta.garduno@abileneisd.org