



BUNKER HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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"Bulldog...It's more than our mascot; it's our character"

*Michael J. D'Ostilio
Principal*

*Gregory Muscelli, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal*

April 20, 2020

Dear Bulldogs and Bulldog Families:

I hope this letter finds you well, rested, and eager to tackle the fourth marking period. It goes without saying that the last half of the 3rd Marking Period was something no one could anticipate, and no one recognized the change that was going to take place. We spent the first two weeks in triage mode as we checked in with students, ensured all had devices, wifi, meals, etc., and made sure students knew to keep up with their studies. In turn, students spent that time learning to manage their time and set daily schedules.

As a result, we're at very big crossroad here as teachers have worked over the last month to scale things back and focus on the essential learning. While doing this, students are still held accountable for work and have learned the protocols by which to communicate with teachers in this remote setting. But the 4th marking period is serious in that there is a tendency to let off the gas. However, for so many of us in the remote setting, it's just the opposite and a call to action.

Some, not all students, did not take the last 4 weeks seriously and failed to turn in work and keep up with their studies. On the other hand, many other students figured out a system that works and have been soaring with their new process. Either way a couple of emphasized points and reminders may prove helpful:

1. Parents and students should immediately check PowerSchool and peruse the third marking period's grades. If there are missing assignments, the student/parent should reach out to the teacher to inquire about learning recovery, meaning how to get the assignments in.
2. Students have until the end of the school day on 4/21 to get in all missed work unless a different arrangement is made with the teacher.
3. Email is the primary communication mode for teachers and students. Students are emailed daily what the assignment is or where to find it. Students get overwhelmed with emails when they aren't checking them each day or doing work each day. Consequently, after many days, emails can get buried and overlooked.
4. Teachers are still working to be flexible with deadlines as they are focusing on the students learning the material. If a student missed a deadline and is turning in a late assignment, they should email the teacher that they just turned it in. Without this, the teacher will not know to go back and look at the work.
5. Students are sometimes emailed for live Teams or Schoology webchats to help clarify directions. Please make sure your child attends those.
6. As always, if you have any questions regarding assignments or grades. Please reach out to the teacher to help clarify the assignments.

As a principal, I wish I could give a definitive as to when we are back in school because it would certainly be easier on everyone. Yet, it is beyond the school's realm at this point as the whole state is waiting on safety updates. In the meantime, as the principal, I want to encourage everyone to spend the next 9 weeks really committing to set that goal to finish the school year strong. Bulldogs have a great way of being resilient, and I know all can commit to this challenge.

Best wishes this marking period Bulldogs. Finish strong. You can do it,

Mr. D'Ostilio

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr. D'Ostilio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M" and "D".