



# Luella High School

## Pride News

**Issued:** August 5, 2019

Week #1

Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 school year. Information for the 2019 - 2020 school year is posted on our website: [School Information](#).

- I have embedded several links to assist you in being able to review the information that I have referenced in Pride News.

We had two very successful open houses: one for freshmen and one for grades ten through twelve. We have finished the first two days of school. Even though starting school for students on a Thursday was new to us, those first two days allowed us to work through multiple start-up issues, which we did this past Thursday and Friday. On Monday, we plan to operate under a normal school day.

### **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND CLASS ASSEMBLIES:**

We had a class meeting with all four classes. During those class meetings, we spoke to students about our behavioral expectations and about other details applicable to that particular class. At all meetings, the grade level assistant principal and Deputy Harmon, LHS school resource officer, addressed expectations. We made sure to recognize the grade level counselor.

We reminded all students that the LHS Non-Negotiables for student behavior remain the same as last year and are posted in all classrooms:

- Be on Time
  - I will be in the classroom before the bell rings
- Be Prepared To Learn
  - I will not use cellular devices or earbuds / headphones in the classroom
  - I will not sleep in class
  - I will minimize my requests to leave class

Referenced in all class meetings and posted on our website under the School Information box is the [2019 – 2020 Henry County Schools Student/Parent Handbook](#), which includes a revised [Code of Conduct](#). Please be sure you have reviewed the Handbook and discussed it with your student. Homeroom/Advisory teachers are sending home a form for you and your student to sign that states that you have reviewed the handbook and Code of Conduct. Those signed forms will need to be returned to the student's Homeroom/Advisory teacher.

I spoke to each group of students explaining to them that I needed them to behave and to keep their focus on the purpose of being at Luella High School: getting an education and graduating. I also talked with each group about the new grading policy for the school district, which I address below in more detail.

### **NEW GRADING POLICIES:**

I provided an overview of the new grading policy, effective for this school year, on the parent handout that we distributed at both open houses. Here is that information; I will continue to remind everyone about these changes so that we are sure that our students adjust to the semester system.

Beginning this school year, all high schools in Henry County Schools will **award credit at the end of EACH semester**. This is a change; in the past, credit has been awarded at the end of the school year.

- It is vital that all of us reinforce to our students that grades at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester (December 20) will determine whether a student receives .5 credit for each 1<sup>st</sup> semester course. The same will be true at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (May 22).

### **Our Mission:**

Luella High School will graduate each student: college, career and life ready.

Teacher Infinite Campus gradebooks will reflect the following categories:

- **40% - Practice Work:** class work, homework, formative assessments, diagnostic assessments, written reflections may be graded for accuracy or completion.
- **40% - Assessment Tasks:** Such as constructed responses assessments, selected response assessments, reflective assessments, summative unit assessments, culminating performance tasks, projects.
- **20% - Semester Summative Assessment Tasks:** Assesses the totality of standards of the course.
  - For EOC courses, EOC = 20% - - -For non-EOC courses, final exam (full summative semester assessment) = 20%

At each grade reporting period, students will receive conduct grades: S = Satisfactory; N = Needs Improvement; U = Unsatisfactory.

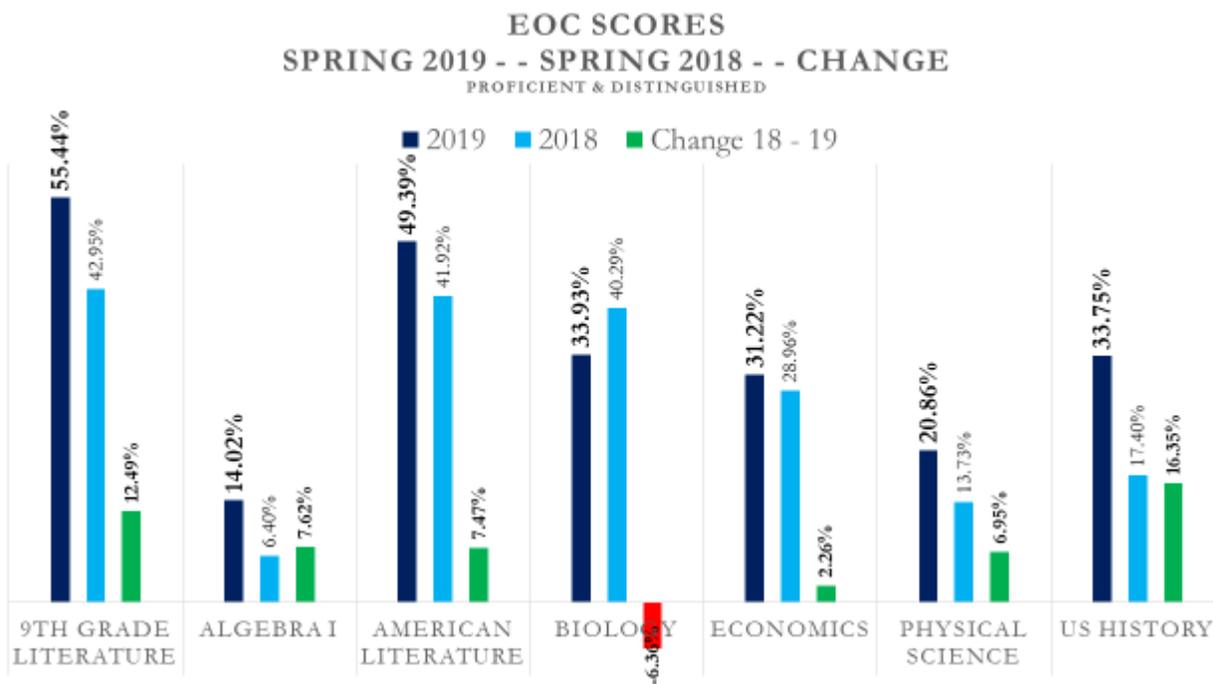
Some other information about the grading policy:

- Grades, **updated weekly**, will be available for review in the IC parent/student grading portal.
- *Teachers shall communicate with parents/legal guardians of students who are not showing an appropriate progression towards the mastery of standards and/or are in danger of failing a course.*
- **Make-Up Work:** Students are responsible for any missed assignments on the first day they return to school from an absence.
  - The number of days allowed to complete make-up work will be determined by the principal and/or his/her designee but will not exceed the number of days absent.
    - Failure to comply with this procedure will result in a grade of zero (o) being given for the graded assignments missed during an absence.

*All departments have provided information about available tutoring and other opportunities for students to receive academic assistance.*

### TEST SCORES:

The Georgia Department of Education has released Spring test scores; therefore, I can now proudly report our school's progress on Georgia Milestones End-Of-Course tests, based on the May 2019 EOCs taken by our students. The chart below shows a comparison of 2018 to 2019 scores of the percentage of students scoring at Level 3 (Proficient) and Level 4 (Distinguished). Scoring in either of these levels is considered demonstrating mastery of the applicable course standards.



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As you can see, LHS saw an increase in the percentage of students scoring at Level 3 and 4 from 2018 to 2019. The one area, Biology, which showed a decrease was a bit of an anomaly. We shifted to offering Physical Science in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and Biology in 10<sup>th</sup> grade over these last 2 years, which meant that there were hardly any students taking Biology in 2018, yet the entire tenth grade class took Biology in 2019.

In the [District's informational release](#) about scores across the District, Luella High School is listed 5 different times for increases in Level 3, 4 scores. The HCS information release is linked off of our website and the District's website. Please take a few minutes and review; it reinforces the progress that our students are making.

#### **SAFETY AND SECURITY:**

We continue our commitment to the safety and security of each student and staff member. As a reminder,

- To enter the building during school hours, use one of the main entrance doors. All other exterior doors will remain locked during the day.
- All staff members will wear ID badges.
- Visitors will check in and be issued a printed ID badge through the standard Checkmate software system.
  - The temporary ID badge must be worn in the building. Anyone without this standard ID badge will be stopped and escorted to the front office.
- During class time, classroom doors will be locked.
- The attendance office has now been moved into the front office.
- We are glad that our resource officer, Deputy Harmon, is returning for this school year.

#### **SCHOOL OPERATING HOURS:**

- The school will open at 6:45 AM each school day and close at 4:30 PM.
  - After 4:30, students will not be allowed past the building's front lobby.
- The front office will be open and telephones answered from 7:45 AM to 4:00 PM.

#### **PARKING PERMITS:**

Information about purchasing a parking permit is posted on our website. Students will have through Friday, August 16 to purchase a parking permit. After August 16, any student vehicle without an LHS Parking Permit parked on the campus will be subject to being towed at the owner's expense; this includes student parked in the Visitor Parking area. While this emphasis on parking registration may seem zealous, it too provides another layer of security, allowing us to have an accounting of vehicles parked on the campus during the school day.

Thank you for your support and understanding of our work. We are certainly #BETTERTOGETHER and together we do EXPECT *Exceptional*.

And, as always.  
Go Lions!

Jerry Smith

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