

CAST Tech FAQ for Families

As we transition to distance learning we want to address your questions and concerns. We will continue to update this document.

Is the SAT exam being administered March 25 to juniors?

No, College Board postponed the SAT Exam and will provide an update in April 2020.

How will grades be determined?

For now we will implement a “soft roll-out” of instruction the week of March 23 to inform our practice so that the faculty may adjust accordingly. SAISD has shared that grading requirements will be relaxed and more information will follow once TEA releases guidelines.

How will shared programming courses take place, such as fine arts and athletics?

These classes will be taught online and these courses will be added to our course schedule. Being a campus that shares these teachers, we are reviewing course schedules with ALA and the Fox Tech Health & Law Magnet to determine a common time for these courses to be offered, i.e. band, mariachi, dance, athletics.. We anticipate having this information posted by Monday morning.

What are the promotion requirements?

TEA will provide updates if there will be any changes in requirements. At this time, all students are to complete online course instruction and assignments to ensure good academic standing.

Will college counseling be available remotely?

Yes, Ms. Byrne is the College Bound Advisory. She has created a Google classroom for students and can be reached at fbryne1@saisd.net

I have instructional accommodations per Special Education services or 504. Will I continue to receive those services?

The faculty will work to provide accommodations. There may be some accommodations that need to be addressed with the student and parent, if we can't provide the service remotely. This will be addressed directly with the family to derive a solution and update the SpEd or 504 plan, as necessary.

Will we have to make-up the days we are not in school?

TEA reported that as long as we offer distance learning, we do not have to make-up the instructional days lost due to COVID-19.

Updated 3-21-20

How can we assist other CAST Families that may need resources, i.e. house supplies, food?

Our FACE Specialist, Ms. Rios-Holguin, is collecting this information and will share any needs to our CAST Families, as well as procedures for collecting items for those that can donate and a pick-up schedule for families in need.

Will my child need to make-up STAAR Exams, also called End of Course Exams, missed this school year?

TEA has waived STAAR exams for this academic school year and students will not be required to make them up.

Will I be able to get help from my teacher if I need help with the assignment?

Yes, teachers have published office hours and can also make appointments with the student.

What is the status of AP Exams?

College Board reported they will send an update in early April. Reviewing their [website](#), you can see updates and online resources to assist with preparedness for the AP exams. Here is some information we pulled:

The AP Program will invest heavily over the next month in the following ways:

- For the 2019-20 exam administration only, students can take a 45-minute online exam at home. Educator-led development committees are currently selecting the exam questions that will be administered.
- Some students may want to take the exam sooner rather than later, while the content is still fresh. Other students may want more time to practice. For each AP subject, there will be two different testing dates.
- AP curricula are locally developed and we defer to local decisions on how best to help students complete coursework. To be fair to all students, some of whom have lost more instructional time than others, the exam will only include topics and skills most AP teachers and students have already covered in class by early March.
- Colleges support this solution and are committed to ensuring that AP students receive the credit they've worked this year to earn. For decades, colleges have accepted a shortened AP Exam for college credit when groups of students have experienced emergencies.
- Students will be able to take these streamlined exams on any device they have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone. Taking a photo of handwritten work will also be an option.
- The exam questions are designed in ways that prevent cheating. We use a range of digital security tools and techniques, including plagiarism detection software, to protect the integrity of the exams. Scoring at-home work for an AP Exam isn't new to the AP Program. For years the AP Program has received and scored at-home student work as part of the exams for the AP Computer Science Principles and AP Capstone™ courses.

Updated 3-21-20

We'll continue to support students with free resources through exam day. And while we encourage students to wait until closer to the test date to decide, any student already registered for an exam can choose to cancel at no charge.

Information about the reduced scope of content that will be covered on each 2020 AP Exam is currently posted on [AP Central®](#). The specific test dates and the free-response question types will all be posted by April 3. We'll also unlock any relevant free-response questions in AP Classroom for digital use so students can access all practice questions of the type that will appear on the exam.

Daily Online Review AP Classes

Beginning on Wednesday, March 25, students and schools will have access to free, live AP review lessons, delivered by AP teachers from across the country. The lessons will focus on reviewing the skills and concepts from the first 75% of the course. These mobile-friendly classes are:

- Designed to be used alongside work that may be given by schools.
- Recorded and will be available on-demand so teachers and students can access them any time.
- Not dependent on current AP teachers continuing instruction. We know many AP teachers now face challenges that would make that impossible.