BELL ACADEMY Curriculum and Work Expectations 2024-2025

In order to maintain consistency throughout the entire school, we have outlined the following curriculum and work expectations. The classroom teacher will discuss the expectations with the students during the first week of school

- Students will be taught within the guidelines set by the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards (MCCRS) for all subjects.

- One (1) point for each error in capitalization and punctuation in third through sixth grade in all subjects beginning the first nine weeks, and second grade beginning the third nine weeks.

- One (1) points for not indenting paragraphs on assignments such as writing prompts, letters, essays, final reports, or other assignments deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher in grades two through six.

- Three (3) points will be deducted for not following ***written directions*** in grades 3-6.

- Fluency Standards for Math Facts will be followed. Students will be given a fluency fact test each week after four days of instruction aligned with the Bell Academy Fluency plan for grades K-6. To insure automaticity, these assessments will be timed. These will be averaged for two minor grades each nine weeks (Week 1-4 equals one minor grade, Weeks 5-8 equals one minor grade).

- Students will be given assignments from various educational websites to include iReady (K-6), Stemscopes (3-6), Renaissance Learning: Accelerated Reader, MyOn (K-6) and Reading Plus (3-6). Other websites may also be utilized. Reasonable time will be given to complete the assignment. Students may be given minor or major grades as determined by the teacher depending on if it is an assignment or an assessment.

- Students in 4K-2nd grade are not required to complete an individual science fair project. Students in 4K through first grade will complete projects in the classroom and Science Lab in small or large groups.

- In 3rd through 6th grades, all students are required to participate in the school-wide science fair and meet all deadlines set by the science lab teacher and /or classroom teacher. The science fair will be held each year in January. The grading expectations will be followed as outlined in the Science Fair packet.

- In an effort to meet the expectations of speaking and listening standards, students in first through sixth grade are expected to recite one teacher chosen memorization per month. The poem will have one stanza for each grade level. This grade will be listed as a major grade each month. The memorizations will be sent home with the students as well as posted on the Bell Academy website.

- For students in 1st through 6th grades, Accelerated Reader is not used as a primary instructional tool, but as a supplement to encourage self-selected reading and to monitor the comprehension of the self-selected book. Beginning each nine week period, the students will be administered a STAR test that will determine his or her reading level. Goals will be set and sent home with the student after the STAR assessment is taken each nine weeks. While reading time will be given each day, students are expected to read a minimum of 20 minutes each night. Some grade levels may require a reading log. Celebrations will occur and grades will be given.

- At the end of each nine weeks, students in 1st & 2nd grades will receive one MAJOR grade for the % of reading comprehension and one MINOR grade for the % of points towards the point goal.
- Students in grades 3-6 will receive MINOR grades *bi-weekly (every two weeks)* for the percentage towards their point goal. One MAJOR grade will be given at the end of each nine weeks for % of reading comprehension.
- Although teachers will occasionally send home progress reports for AR, parents are expected to stay abreast of their child's AR performance by logging into Renaissance Place as identified in the Parent Home Connect letter sent home.
- PK and K will take assessments as a class. Kindergarten students will have the opportunity to begin taking AR tests individually during the second semester.

- Spelling is a part of the language grade. Spelling tests will be given for students in first through sixth grade. The length of the list should be appropriate for the grade level. In grades K-2, the spelling words should follow a spelling pattern. In grades 3-6 the spelling words should be from the students' Vocabulary Workshop. Individual spelling grades are not entered into the gradebook. Each spelling test will include 2 sentences for dictation. Sentence dictation will begin the first nine weeks for students in grades 2-6. Sentence dictation will begin the third nine weeks for students in first grade. Spelling grades will be averaged for two minor grades each nine weeks (Week 1-4 equals one minor grade, Weeks 5-8 equals one minor grade).

- Teacher-parent conferences are encouraged and effort should be made to arrange such conferences as needed to insure student progress. Conferences should be scheduled by contacting the individual teacher through email, Class Dojo, or School Status. Conferences will be held during the teacher's conference period, as well as before or after school with 24 hours notice.

- Teachers will post weekly newsletters to the Bell Academy website. A hard copy will also be sent home.

- Grades will be entered within one week of the assignment being given. Parents may view grades by logging into your Active Parent account. Signed papers will be sent home weekly on Wednesday for students in grades K-2, and twice monthly for students in grades 3-6 (first and 3rd Wednesday of each month). The signed papers should be signed by the parent and returned to the teacher the next day.

- Teachers may be reached through the office phone, Class Dojo, School Status, or their Cleveland School District email. *Teachers should not be contacted through social media, personal cell phone, or personal email.*

I have read and understand the Bell Academy Curriculum and Work Expectations for the 2024-2025 school term. I understand that any decision(s) made by the classroom teacher and/or administrator are based on the policies already set by Bell Academy as well as the policies set forth by the Cleveland School District as outlined in the student handbook.

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Student's Name Grade

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Parent's Signature/Date Teacher's Signature/Date

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Principal's Signature/Date