SENIOR BULLETIN #1

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As we have reached the mid-year for the 2019-2020 school year, it is important for all parents to understand the promotional requirements set forth in the Chancellor’s Regulation A-501, especially since it differs with each grade level.

Promotion is the process by which teachers determine if students are ready for and have mastered enough content and skills to be successful in the next grade level. The NYCDOE’s student promotion policy, defined in Chancellor’s Regulation A-501, ensures that students have the supports they need to build a strong foundation in math and literacy before entering the next grade level. In accordance with A-501, schools establish promotion benchmarks, or academic standards, which students must meet in order to advance to the next grade level at the end of the school year. Throughout the year, teachers and principals regularly review students’ academic performance and identify students who, even with additional support and interventions, may be at risk of not meeting the promotion benchmarks for their grade level. Each student’s academic progress is assessed holistically, using multiple measures, such as NYSED test scores, course grades, writing samples, projects, assignments, and other performance-based student work. While NYSED test scores may be considered, they may not be the determining factor in assessing a student’s readiness for the next grade.

For grade 8 students, all students must pass English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies classes. Students must have a year-end passing average in each main subject area. Students will be promoted based on an evaluation of state test scores, course grades, samples of student writing, projects, learning tasks, portfolios and assignments. Students must also show sufficient progress towards meeting the Common Core ELA and Math Standards. State test scores will not be used as the primary factor in making promotion decisions.

Please be aware, only those 8th grade students who successfully fulfill these requirements will be permitted to attend graduation. Currently, all 8th grade students not meeting these promotional requirements at the end of our second marking period will receive a “Promotion in Doubt” letter. This letter will highlight which subjects the student is deficient in. Please ensure your child and family are enrolled into pupilpath to track student progress and work hard to get back on track in time for graduation. It is still possible to fix these deficiencies and graduate on time.

Graduation ceremonies mark significant developmental milestones for students and families and provide an opportunity for achievement to be acknowledged and celebrated by the whole school community. It is the policy of the DOE that all students who meet the promotional criteria and are graduating attend the graduation ceremony. The school does have the right to exclude any student from attending the graduation ceremony if the student poses a threat of violence or disruption to the event, or the conduct that is the basis for the potential exclusion is particularly egregious. If the principal believes that your child’s behavior is serious enough to warrant an exclusion from graduation, you will be given written notice of the possible exclusion and an opportunity to discuss the underlying facts with the principal.

Should you have any questions regarding the promotional guidelines for 8th grade students, I encourage you to contact Ms. Movsesian your child’s Assistant Principal at (718) 698-5757. As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jessica Jackson
Principal