

# THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY ACADEMY – I.S. 238

88-15 182<sup>ND</sup> STREET, HOLLIS, NY 11423

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PETER LEDDY, PRINCIPAL

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January 3, 2024

Dear Families of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:

**Promotion:** Promotion is moving from one grade to the next once the grade requirements are met. Students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are “promoted” to high school, not “graduated.” The term “graduation” refers to the ceremony held in June. Students that do not meet the promotional requirements **cannot** attend the graduation ceremony in June.

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must meet the following requirements to meet the NYC DOE Promotional Criteria as per Chancellor’s Regulation A-501:

- The integrated use of multiple measures, such as State test scores, course grades, report cards, samples of student writing, projects, assignments, and other performance-based student work. However, State test scores may not be the primary or major factor in promotion decisions.
- ***The attainment of passing grades in core English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies courses.***

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must receive a final, passing grade of 65 or higher in the Four Core subjects to be promoted to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Failure in any one of the four will require the student to attend summer school. If the student meets the requirements of summer school, the student will be promoted in August and attend high school in September.

**Graduation Ceremony:** The graduation ceremony/moving-up ceremony is not an actual graduation. This is ceremony/celebration for students that achieved the necessary requirements to move onto high school. The graduation ceremony is not the same as promotion. The ceremony will be held on June 18, 2024.

To be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony in June, a student must meet the following requirements:

- Receive a final, passing grade of 65 or higher in ALL of their subjects. This includes: ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education, Foreign Language, and Art/Music
- Full Payment of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dues
- No serious disciplinary infractions (Please Note: A school may prohibit a student who is already on suspension at the time of the moving up activities from attending when they pose a real threat of violence or disruption to the event, but the exclusion must be proportionate to the infraction committed. Schools may also bar a student with particularly egregious conduct from a moving up ceremony, as long as the school has previously advised the student and family in writing.)

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## Accelerated Courses

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students take Algebra 1 and Living Environment Courses

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the NYS Living Environment Regents on June 14, 2024. Living Environment has a Lab Hours Requirement that all students must meet to be eligible to take the exam. If a student has not met the Lab Hours Requirement, they cannot take the exam.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the NYS Algebra 1 Regents Exam on June 4, 2024
- In order to earn high school credit for the course, grade 8 students must pass the accelerated course and earn a minimum score of 65 on the Regents Exam
- If a student passes the course, but fails the exam with a score lower than 65, the student **HAS MET** the promotional criteria for the subject
- If a student fails the course, but passes the exam, the student **HAS NOT MET** the promotional criteria for the subject and must attend summer school to meet the promotional criteria

	Course	Exam	Result
<b>Algebra 1</b>	Pass	Pass	Promotional Criteria Met & HS Credit
	Fail	Pass	Promotional Criteria NOT Met & No HS Credit
	Pass	Fail	Promotional Criteria Met & No HS Credit
	Fail	Fail	Promotional Criteria NOT met & No HS Credit
<b>Living Environment</b>	Pass	Pass	Promotional Criteria Met & HS Credit
	Fail	Pass	Promotional Criteria NOT Met & No HS Credit
	Pass	Fail	Promotional Criteria Met & No HS Credit
	Fail	Fail	Promotional Criteria NOT met & No HS Credit

I believe that all our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students can meet these expectations, provided they come to school every day, on time, focus on their academics, and have your full support. Students will stumble and struggle, as they should, but they need to be completely engaged in their work to succeed.

**Struggle:** Student has been in class every day, doing the work, but not seeing the results on their assessments. Before frustration takes hold, speak with the teacher. Ask what supports we can provide the student to help them succeed. How can all of us help the student achieve their goals.

**Not a struggle:** Student is late to first period class almost every day or misses the class entirely. Student does not attempt to come to school on time. This student will fail the class. They will fail because they did not try. They did not struggle.

If we are not struggling, thinking, worrying, trying, how can we succeed? If you go to the gym to get in shape, you may start at the slowest speed on the treadmill or lift the lightest weights. However, you will eventually raise the speed on the treadmill and add weight to the barbell. As you increase the speed and the weight you will struggle, you will sweat, and you will keep doing that because you have made progress. Ultimately, you will be working harder than you were when you started, but you will be succeeding, and you will be setting new goals and achieving more. We should all be applying this same approach to education. Please join your child and us in the struggle because the struggle is real.

Sincerely,

Peter Leddy  
Principal