

## **Seventh & Eighth Grade Academic Standards For Promotion & Graduation**

It is the desire of the Board of Trustees and Staff at Jackson Street School that students acquire the knowledge, skills, and responsibility to achieve to the best of their abilities. In striving to achieve this goal we have adopted the following Academic Standards for Promotion and Graduation.

### **A. PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS**

1. There are four quarters per school year. Every quarter, students will take five required subjects and one elective worth one unit each per quarter. A student, therefore, can earn a maximum of 24 units during a school year.
2. In order to be promoted to the next grade a student must earn a minimum of 20 units for the school year: at least four of which must be earned in the fourth quarter.
3. Students may be assigned a failing quarter grade if unexcused absences exceed 15% of the total school days in that quarter. Students will be responsible for making up work when absent.
4. If a student fails two or more quarters of a required subject (English, Health/Physical Education, Literature, Math, Science, or Social Studies) he or she will be required to successfully repeat at least one of the failed quarters. If, at the end of the school year, a student has two or more failing grades standing in any one of the required subjects, he/she must attend summer school to earn that credit. This will be required even if the student earns the 20 units necessary for promotion to the next grade. The make-up course work for summer school will be determined and/or approved, by the summer school teacher or the teacher of the class failed by the student. Summer school work will be monitored and evaluated and a pass/fail grade will be assigned by a qualified teacher. The course will be listed on a student's transcript as being repeated.

### **B. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

It is the Board's desire that students who fail a class should have an opportunity to make up the class in an alternate way. A Faculty Academic Eligibility Committee consisting of the assistant principal, one seventh grade teacher, one eighth grade teacher, and one additional teacher from either grade level shall make recommendations to the principal concerning the best alternative in each case. The principal will act as an ex officio member of the committee.

1. A student will be given a passing mark by successfully completing one of the following:
  - o Passing a teacher-designed challenge test with a score of 80% or better, or;
  - o A contracted summer school class under the following conditions:
    - a summer school program is offered
    - no more than two units may be earned

- the summer school class requirement materials will be determined and/or approved by the summer school teacher or the teacher of the class failed by the student
  - ⊖ a contracted course to be completed after school, during an elective period, or during a Saturday school program (if funded). However, a student can only earn one unit per quarter in this manner, and may not repeat any subject more than one quarter per year.
2. A student who fails to meet the unit requirement and who does not make up the units in the prescribed manner may be granted a promotion based on such variable factors as age, maturity, and physical size. This can only be the case if no alternate age-appropriate educational setting is available for the student. Such promotions will be noted in a student's cumulative record.

### C. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Certain procedures are essential in notifying both students and parents when student performance does not meet the designated standard. The procedure shall be as follows:

1. During the 1st week of school, parents and students will receive information explaining the Academic Standards for Promotion and Graduation.
2. Deficiency reports of students receiving a "D" or an "F" will be mailed home in the middle of each quarter. A reminder of promotion and graduation standards and a request for a conference will be sent home with the deficiency notice.
3. Report cards and promotion standards will be sent home at the end of each quarter.
4. At all conferences, parents may request samples of the student's work and an accounting of the grade records which have caused the failing grade.
5. Certified letters will be sent to parents of students in danger of being retained at the end of both the second and third quarters.

### D. TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Each teacher will explain the Academic Standards for Promotion and Graduation to his/her students at the beginning of each quarter.
2. Each teacher will post a copy of the Academic Standards for Promotion and Graduation in his/her classroom.
3. The teacher will complete student deficiency reports mid-quarter, as necessary.
4. The teacher will be available to conference with the parents of each student who is in danger of failing. Scheduled conferences will be available at the end of the first quarter for all parents and any other time during the year as necessary.

5. The teacher of a student who fails a course may make a recommendation to the Academic Eligibility Committee regarding ways in which the student may make up the class.

**E. PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The principal or designee will contact parents of students in danger of not being promoted. (See C-5)
2. The principal or designee will notify parents when their child has not met the requirements for promotion from the 7th or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**F. PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Recognizing that parents play a vital support role in their child's academic achievement, parents are requested to assist in the following ways:

1. Seeing that their child attends school on a regular basis
2. Assist teachers by having their child complete homework assignments.
3. Attend all parent/teacher conferences as requested
4. Request a conference when desired
5. Encourage their child to participate in school activities, cooperate with school authorities, and to excel academically to the best of their ability

**G. GRADUATION**

1. Only those students who have met all of the academic requirements for promotion by the day of the first graduation practice will be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony and all other graduation activities.
2. Students who successfully complete their academic requirements during summer school will receive their diploma at the conclusion of summer school.
3. Graduating students must also have maintained acceptable behavior and attendance standards in order to participate in all graduation activities.