



PS 158

1458 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075 tel.212.744.6562 fax.212.772.8424

Dina Ercolano, Principal
Janice Liao, Assistant Principal

PS 158 Academic Grading Policy (K-5) School Year 2023-24

At PS 158 we base students' grades on academic progress and performance, considering a student's entire body of work in each subject area, while providing multiple ways to demonstrate learning.

At PS 158 we maintain a fair grading policy, accurately reflecting each individual student's performance levels based on the NYS Learning Standards. Our grading policy outlines how and when students will receive feedback on their understanding of content and mastery of skills. Each grade measures performance in each subject area by tracking students' academic progress and classroom performance.

Grades are a reflection of students' understanding and command of content, their progression through a subject, and their mastery of skills at a given point in time. Grades reflect a combination of classwork, projects, writing pieces, assessments, reflections and participation in each subject area.

To maintain consistency and provide transparency to students and their parents, the table below explains how a grade is determined. Detailed explanations are provided below of possible components that can contribute to a student's grade.

Considerations for Equity and Social-Emotional Well-Being

The transitions in the past months have been significant for New York City. Students, families, teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, service providers, and many others in students' lives have had to overcome enormous challenges. During this time, our policies must reflect the wide range of experiences and challenges that we are facing as a community. Grades are a way to communicate about progress with students and families, and teachers must continue to assess student work and provide meaningful feedback about what students are learning. Grades must be as clear and accurate as possible while also taking into consideration the varied circumstances that students and schools are facing. First and foremost, we must support students to advance in their learning through June and beyond. While we assess student learning in new ways, we must continue to review student work holistically. At this point in the year, teachers have a great deal of information about student progress to inform student grades.

Academic Standards

At PS 158 students have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of concepts and mastery of skills within a subject area through multiple measures of performance. Student work is an essential way for teachers to gauge students' understanding of materials and allow the teacher to inform and design instruction.

Teachers regularly provide constructive feedback on student work and next steps to guide students in improving their understanding. The frequency and specific assessments are established by grade guidelines and rubrics.



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| <u>Academic Standards</u> | <u>Classroom Standards</u> |
|--|--|
| <p><u>Student Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Notebooks ○ Math Posters ○ Group Work ○ Post-Its ○ Math Centers work ○ Writing Pieces <p><u>Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standards based benchmark assessments ○ Running records ○ Pre- and Post- assessments to assess growth Ex. On-demand pieces ○ Informal assessments ○ Observational notes ○ Conferring notes ○ Rubrics ○ Checklists | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom discussion and participation ● Collaborative partner/group work ● Respects others ● Respects classroom/school expectations and norms ● Attends to lessons ● Preparedness ● Stamina to complete assigned tasks ● Qualities of a learner: resilience, perseverance, curiosity, etc. |

PS 158 Grading Scale

| GRADE | DESCRIPTION |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 4 | Exceeds Standards |
| 3 | Proficient in Standards |
| 2 | Approaching Standards |
| 1 | Below Standards |
| NL | New/Recent Admit |

Timeline of Student Grades

PS 158 maintains the annual term model, and issues progress reports two times a year, to provide students and families with feedback about student performance levels.

**For the SY 2023-24, Semester One is September 7, 2023 to January 31, 2024.
Semester Two is February 1, 2024 to June 26, 2024.**

Both the Academic Standards and the Classroom Standards will contribute to the determination of students' cumulative final grades, at the end of the marking period. The grade given will be representative of the work the



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student did over the course, and the level of performance as of that point in time. At the conclusion of each year, final grades are entered into the NYCDOE STARS system and serve as the permanent grade on students' academic records for the school year.

ELLs and Students with IEPs

All students, including students with disabilities and ELLs, should be working toward grade-level standards. All students must receive grades based on mastery of learning standards, and receive feedback on their progress toward those standards.

For ELLs, PS 158 considers the students' English as Native Language (ENL) proficiency level, and provides opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of the NYS learning standards in their native languages.

For students with disabilities, PS 158 documents annual goals, plans for progress monitoring and promotional criteria in the IEP, while the progress report documents progress made in the general education curriculum. All students, including Students with Disabilities, receive grades based on how well they master the subject matter, concepts, contents and skills addressed in a subject area.

Students with disabilities who receive accommodations and/or supplementary aids and services are graded based on their demonstrated understanding of the concepts and skills taught when these accommodations and/or supplementary aids and services are provided. Students' receipt of accommodations does not impact the grade that can be earned.

Entry Error

Grades represent a student's mastery of concepts and skills at a given point in time. If there is a grade entry error, teachers will notify School Leadership, to verify and discuss next steps. If there is a legitimate verifiable reason such as a miscalculation, changes can be completed within 20 days in the NYCDOE STARS system.

Promotion Decisions

Promotion decisions are made using multiple measures of student performance throughout the course of the school year and when applicable, the standardized State exams. If a student's promotion to the next grade is in jeopardy, the teacher must notify School Leadership, and families will then be notified.

Opportunities to Discuss Student Progress

Parents will be informed of their student's progress during Parent-Teacher Conferences, which take place twice a year (fall and spring). In addition to Parent Teacher Conferences, meetings with teachers can also be scheduled via email to discuss student progress throughout the school year. Teachers commit to responding to meeting requests within 48 hours (2 school days) to ensure timely and informative communication.