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P.S 11 Academic Policy

Students will receive official grades in January (end of first semester) and June (end of second semester). The following metric will be used for grades:

GRADE	Performance Level
1	Far Below Grade Level Benchmarks
2	Approaching Grade Level Benchmarks
3	Meeting Grade Level Benchmarks
4	Exceeding Grade Level benchmarks

Families will be able to review student work portfolios (which contain all content specific rubrics) four times each year (November, January, March and May/June). Students will only receive grades in subjects taught for each specific semester. Students who have a specialty class (art, music, theater, technology and dance) only in the second semester will receive a additional specialty class mid-term report in April.

Promotion

Students who are performing at a level 1 (far below grade level benchmarks) in either Reading, Writing, or Math, are considered “promotion in doubt.” Multiple measures will be used to determine promotion eligibility. In grades 3, 4 and 5, New York State Test Examination grades may be used as one of the measures to determine promotion. Promotion for students with disabilities will be based on the individual student’s modified promotion criteria (if applicable). Families of students in danger of not meeting grade level promotion standards will be notified (via student portfolio) in November, January, and March. Final promotion decisions will be made in June.

Reading

Reading grades will be determined by a combination of assessed reading level (Fountas and Pinnel) and additional data regarding reading comprehension. A student’s grade will be determined by assessing the demonstration of consistent behaviors and thinking skills (in writing, or verbally) appropriate to specific text characteristics and grade level standards as set by the Teachers College Benchmarks and Next Gen/Common Core Standards. Multiple pieces of evidence will be used to determine a student’s grade (when applicable) including:
formal running record assessments, journal entries, reading responses, reading jots, partnership or small group discussions, teacher conferences and pre and post unit assessments.

Writing

Writing grades will be determined using the Teachers College rubric for Narrative, Informational and Opinion writing. Students will be graded based on a cumulative average score on their published (teacher supported) and “on demand” (independent) writing. Published pieces will be scored at the end of each unit of study. “On demand” writing will be scored at the end of each semester

Math

Math grades will be determined by an average of Post Unit Assessment (quizzes), using the following chart:

Percent	49% or below	50-74%	75-89%	90-100%
Grade	1	2	3	4

Students must also show evidence of strong mathematic understanding for each assessed level.

This will be assessed through:

Formal assessment (quizzes), partnership or small group conversation, teacher conference, notebook entries and journal tasks

Art

Grades will be determined based on a rubric measuring:
Following project steps and parameters, developing skills across media, creativity, individual ideas, work habits and stamina and displaying independence in the art room.

Social Studies

Grades K, 1, 2, and 3

Grades will be determined by rubric-based projects/activities, engagement, observations, and informal assessments. Additionally, students' ability to apply their reading and writing skills will be taken under consideration when grading.

Grades 4 and 5

Grades will be determined by an average of Post Unit Assessment (quizzes), using the following chart:

Percent	49% or below	50-74%	75-89%	90-100%
Grade	1	2	3	4

Students must also show evidence of strong understanding of content materials.

This will be assessed through:

Partnership or small group work and conversation, teacher conferences, notebook entries and research skills.

Performing Arts (Dance, Theater, Music)

Dance, Music, and Theater grades will be determined using a rubric specific to their discipline for:

Performance preparation and presentation, technique demonstration, and their work as an individual performer and as part of an ensemble.

Students will be graded on a cumulative average score based on their midterm and final portfolio assessments, in addition to assessments of Dance, Music, and Theater projects throughout the semester.

SCIENCE

Grades K-2

Grades will be determined by rubric- based projects/activities, participation (engagement), observations and informal assessments.

Grades 3-5

Science grades will be determined using a rubric that measures each student's ability to follow the Scientific Method to engage in discovery and discussion.

Specifically, a student's grade will be determined by the quality of notebook lab reports, participation in class activities and discussions, and the ability to follow routines and work collaboratively.

In 5th grade only, a large component of a student's grade is comprised of their ability to follow the Scientific Method to produce a science fair project.

Projects will be graded on a rubric that encompasses content, process, and presentation.

Physical Education

Students will be graded using a rubric based on the New York State Physical Education Learning Standards

Technology

Computer / Technology grades will be determined using a rubric appropriate to the grade level of each student.

A student's overall grade will also be determined by their ability to produce projects, stay on tasks, work independently, tenacity, and creativity.