



Robert H. Goddard Middle School 202

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Dear Families,

I hope you and your families are safe and well during these difficult days.

I'd like to begin by thanking you for attending our virtual parent meetings. Each grade had an impressive turnout. Over four hundred of you participated! For the remainder of this school year, our priority will be to share important and specific information tailored for each grade during this time. We hope to have two more before our school year ends. Prior to each virtual meeting, you can submit questions to be answered by the grade team, who will be facilitating. You can also type questions in the chat box throughout the meeting. Our goal is for these meetings to be helpful and we appreciate your feedback.

Several weeks back, I informed families of necessary changes to our Grading Policy for the **third trimester grade**. We needed to update our policy - making it more reflective of the new learning environment and challenges faced with our remote/virtual learning experiences. Again, the policy is only applicable to the third trimester report card grade for this school year

Sometime last week, the DOE announced changes to all NYCDOE schools for calculating **final grades**. For all middle schools across NYC, the grades are as follows: M (Met standard), NI (needs improvement) and NX (course work incomplete). The announcement was released publicly and more information can be found on the DOE's website:
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/search-results?keyword=grading%20policy>

Schools are responsible to create a formula which is consistent with the DOE's new policy. Below you will find a calculation of how grades will be determined at your child's school. The first, second and third report card grades will be averaged in typical fashion for a final grade. The final grade will be calculated and converted to a letter code/indicator (found below). The issuing of letters for final grades have been developed to support students /families with a wide range of challenges, while attempting to learn from home. Each family has its own set of unique circumstances and because of this, I agree with the DOE's policy to consider all of the factors when it comes to determining final grades for students during the pandemic.

I'll provide a brief example. If a student scores 85 on Report card 1, 95 on Report card 2 and 80 on Report card 3, this student will receive an M for a final grade in their respective subject. Any student who is projected to receive an NI may be required to make up work before school ends. If a student receives an NX for a final grade, these students will be required to make up work

over the summer. No decisions have been released regarding any summer school format. At this point, you should have some awareness, by either your child's teacher or a member of the grade team, of poor school performance. If you are unclear, reach out to your children's teacher immediately. If your child received a Promotion In Doubt (PID) letter months ago, this is a clear, and early indication of unsatisfactory work. The PID letters, and grades used in determining promotion in doubt, were generated prior to the COVID - 19 crisis.

FINAL GRADE FORMULA

100 - 75 = M

74 - 65 = NI

64 - 55 = NX

For grade 7 parents who are concerned with the High School application process (for next year), the DOE will be releasing information to assist all of us. I ask you to remain patient and I will share the information once it becomes publicly available.

I'm sure many of you have questions and concerns. I ask you to keep in mind the gravity of our current situation, but I also encourage you to reach out to the school should you need assistance. Staff email contacts are found on our school website www.ms202q.org (Contacts Tab).

Stay well.
Respectfully

William M. Fitzgerald
Principal JHS 202