



Booker T. Washington Middle School 54  
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Dr. Elana Elster, Principal

February 7, 2012

Dear Eighth Grade Parents:

At this midpoint in the school year, I want to remind you of the promotional criteria and share some information with you that is specifically related to your eighth grader.

#### High School Notification

We have been told by the Department of Education that the high school matches will not be distributed until late February (after the mid-winter break). We will keep you posted as we hear more information. The official letters will be mailed home as soon as we receive them.

#### Promotional Requirements

The Department of Education has established the requirements for promotion to high school. These regulations include passing grades in all major subjects, achieving a level two or better on the New York State ELA and math test and an attendance record of at least 90% (no more than 18 days absent). Only students who meet the promotional criteria will be permitted to accept their high school placement.

#### Behavioral Requirements

Participation in senior activities and the commencement ceremony is a privilege granted to those who both meet the promotional and behavioral expectations of the Department of Education and of the school. Repeated violations of the Discipline Code and of the School Code of Conduct may result in a student being prohibited from participation in some or all of these activities.

#### Graduation and Senior Activities

Graduation is scheduled for June 19, 2012 at 5:30PM. Each graduate will receive two tickets for the graduation ceremony. Senior Dues are \$85.00. This fee pays for gowns, commencement expenses, the yearbook, senior t-shirt, an individual graduation photograph and other fees associated with senior activities. The senior trip, which takes place in early June, is not included in the senior dues. Senior dues can be turned in to Mr. Stern, the business manager, on Tuesday and Thursday during lunch. Payment is due by May 17, 2012. Order forms for senior sweatshirts were distributed earlier this week.

Students, who do not meet promotional criteria, may not participate in senior activities or in the commencement ceremony.

#### Yearbook

Students or parents wishing to contribute pictures for the yearbook should email them to [ms54yearbook@gmail.com](mailto:ms54yearbook@gmail.com). Parents who wish to purchase ads in honor of their children should return the order form which was sent home earlier in the week with the students.

## Important Dates

April 17-18		NYS ELA Exam
April 25-27		NYS Mathematics Exam
May 23-June 3		(Window for administration of the NYS Science Performance Test and Regents Practicum)
June 4, 2012		Eighth Grade Written Science Test (for students not taking the Regents)
June 5 and 11, 2012		Clerical Half Days (11:30 dismissal)
June 7, 2012		Chancellor's Day – no school for students
June 12, 2012	9:00AM	Graduation Rehearsal and Eighth Grade Awards Assembly (Abyssinian Baptist Church – Students and Chaperones Only)
	1:00PM	Eighth Grade Yearbook Signing Party (Booker T. Courtyard)
June 13, 2012		Regents Study Day
June 14, 2012	1:00PM	Integrated Algebra Regents Exam
June 15, 2012	1:00PM	Earth Science Regents Exam
June 18, 2012	9:00AM	Language Proficiency Exam
June 27, 2012	10:00AM	Report Card and Diploma Distribution

Sincerely,

Elana Elster  
Principal