



**Edward Gideon School**

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Principal

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Asst. Principal

January 16, 2024

Dear 8th Grade Students and Families,

As we move into the Spring, it is important that we clarify and reinforce our expectations for the remainder of the school year. We are so proud of our Gideon Class of 2024 and recognize that for many of our students, these reminders are unnecessary; however, we don't want to catch anyone unaware of the behavioral and academic expectations. Additionally, this letter provides important information about 8th Grade Promotion and the 8th Grade Class Trip.

We want all eighth graders to be in a position to enjoy the fruits of their years of labor here at Gideon. Eighth graders are our role models; as such, it is important that they maintain a level of behavior and achievement that one would expect of middle school "veterans." We fully expect all students to move happily and constructively through their final months at Gideon, to have fun on their class trip, to make their families proud at the promotion ceremony, and to have a blast at the 8th grade barbeque.

**Behavior & Academic Requirements:** In order to earn all three eighth grade privileges (Class trip, Promotion Ceremony) students need to demonstrate positive behavior and academic achievement for the remainder of the year, effective immediately. The criteria for participating in these activities have been developed over the years by students, staff, and administration, and we use them to designate whether or not a student is in good standing to earn full privileges as a Tiger.

**Requirements for Promotion Participation**

**Academic Requirements**

- Students must pass reading, math, science and social studies with at least at C or better.
- Pass specialist classes (Physical Education, Dance, and Digital Literacy) with at least a C or better.
- Must have no more than 3 missed assignments in reading, math, science, and social studies.
- Must have no more than 3 unexcused absence

**Behavior Requirements**



- No suspensions from school through the end of the school year
- No unsatisfactory behavior grades in all classes
- No more than 2 discipline referrals for behavior (i.e., violating Gideon Ways, hoodie violation, cell phone violation)
- Strict adherence to the cell phone and hoodie policy with no more than 2 infractions
- Must have at least 800 PBIS Digital Rewards Points

Students must meet ALL of the academic requirements, or they will forfeit the opportunity to participate in ALL of the eighth grade privileges, i.e., class trips, promotion ceremony, etc. Students whose behavior results in a suspension, more than 2 detentions, or an unsatisfactory grade will forfeit one or all of the events.

### **8th Grade Promotion Ceremony**

The promotion ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM here at the Gideon School. Weather permitting, it will be an outdoor ceremony. Families will be admitted to the ceremony area at 9:45 AM. Please keep in mind that there are multiple families celebrating. To ensure equitable seating, we are asking families to limit the number of attendees to 4 guests. Also, please refrain from saving seats. **Balloons are not permitted in the auditorium.**

### **8th Grade Promotion Attire**

Balancing many different sensitivities and perspectives regarding dress code during an occasion such as a promotion ceremony is tricky. We would like to honor the students' promotion ceremony by having students wear blue graduation caps and gowns. While not as formal as a high school or college graduation this added element will provide a feeling of uniformity and purpose for this special occasion. The cost of the gowns and caps will be \$30.

### **8th Grade Class Trip**

For the 8th grade class trip, we will be heading to Delaware Avenue to enjoy the beautiful scenery of historic Philadelphia. Students will cruise along the Delaware River on the Spirit of Philadelphia and take in all the sights and sounds of Dave & Busters! More information will be forthcoming.

- May 22, 2024 Spirit of Philadelphia
- May 29, 2024 Dave & Busters

The attire for the event is dressy casual. While students will not be confined by the dress code, we do recommend an outfit that is fitting. We will strictly adhere to the school's dress code such as:

Ladies: No midriffs, short skirts, see through clothing, tight or revealing tops or bottom, low-cut tops, tank tops, or spaghetti straps.

Gentlemen: No sagging pants, tank tops



\*We reserve the right to exclude students that do not follow the dress code policy. Permission slips for the trip will be forthcoming. Please return as soon as possible.

### 8th Grade Photos

8th Grade students will have the option of taking photos with their cap and gowns during our Spring photo session. The date will be forthcoming.

| 8th Grade Activities   |   |
|--|---|
| Activity   | Cost  |
| Promotion Ceremony Cap and Gown  | \$30  |
| <b>Spirit of Philadelphia</b><br>Includes cruise, buffet, unlimited beverages, transportation                            | \$60  |
| <b>Dave &amp; Busters</b><br>Includes buffet, unlimited beverages, power card, unlimited video game play, transportation | \$55  |
| T-Shirt  | \$10  |
| <b>Total Cost</b>  | <b>\$155</b>  |
| Payment Options  |   |
| One payment in full  | <b>\$155 DUE no later than February 29, 2024</b>  |
| 2 payments   | <p><b>1st Payment</b><br/>\$75 DUE no later than February 16, 2024</p> <p><b>2nd Payment</b><br/>\$80 DUE no later than February 29, 2024</p> |
| DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE  |   |

### Payments

Payments for all 8th grade activities can be made via online, cash, or money orders to AP Waters. A receipt will be given for all monies received. We are not accepting personal checks.

### 8th Grade Awards

8th Grade awards will be given to students during the Promotion Ceremony on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM. While we are extremely proud of all of our scholars, awards will be presented to students who have demonstrated outstanding performance, growth, and commitment. Students will also receive Perfect Attendance awards, and much more.



**Fines and Materials**

**8th graders must ensure that instructional materials are turned in.** Only 8th graders who have paid all fees for library fines, missing books, iPads, Chromebooks, and iPad-related/Chromebook-related accessories, etc., will receive their promotion certificate and participate in the promotion ceremony. We will notify parents and students of all fines due on or before Wednesday, May 1, 2024. We ask that all fines (if applicable) be paid before Friday, June 7, 2024 or students may not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony.

**Report Cards for Eighth Graders**

Final report cards will be sent home. Parents can also access the report card via the parent portal.

**Questions**

If any parents or students have further questions concerning the above-mentioned matters, please feel free to contact AP Waters [bmwaters@philasd.org](mailto:bmwaters@philasd.org) or Ms. Mitchell, 8th Grade Homeroom Teacher [kmithchell@philasd.org](mailto:kmithchell@philasd.org).

**School Calendar  
2023-2024**

| Date                 | Activity   |
|----------------------|--|
| December 15, 2023    | 3 Hour Early Dismissal-Staff Professional Development<br>Interim Reports |
| December 25-29, 2023 | Christmas Day, Winter Recess-Schools Closed                              |
| January 1, 2024      | New Year’s Day-Schools Closed  |
| January 2, 2024      | School Closed-Staff Professional Development                             |
| January 15, 2024     | Dr. Martin Luther King Day-Schools Closed                                |
| February 1-2, 2024   | 3-Hour Early Dismissal-2nd Term Report Card Conferences                  |
| February 9, 2024     | 3-Hour Early Dismissal-Staff Professional Development                    |
| February 19, 2024    | President’s Day-Schools Closed   |



|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| February 23, 2024    | Interim Reports   |
| March 8, 2024        | 3-Hour Early Dismissal-Staff Professional Development   |
| March 25-29, 2024    | Spring Break, Good Friday-Schools Closed                |
| April 4-5, 2024      | 3-Hour Early Dismissal-3rd Term Report Card Conferences |
| April 8-May 3, 2024  | PSSA Testing Window                                     |
| April 10, 2024       | Eid al-Fitr-Schools Closed                              |
| May 3, 2024          | Interim Reports   |
| May 10, 2024         | 3-Hour Early Dismissal-Staff Professional Development   |
| <b>May 22, 2024</b>  | <b>8th Grade Class Trip-Spirit of Philadelphia</b>      |
| May 23, 2024         | Election Day (Tentative)-Schools Closed                 |
| May 27, 2024         | Memorial Day-Schools Closed                             |
| <b>May 29, 2024</b>  | <b>8th Grade Class Trip-Dave &amp; Busters</b>          |
| <b>June 11, 2024</b> | <b>8th Grade Move-Up Ceremony</b>                       |
| June 12, 2024        | Kindergarten Move-Up Ceremony                           |
| June 13, 2024        | 3-Hour Early Dismissal-Staff Professional Development   |
| June 14, 2024        | 3-Hour Early Dismissal-Last Day for Students and Staff  |

