



www.siths.org

Staten Island Technical High School

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2019 - 2020 Staten Island Technical High School Academic Policy

For the 2019-2020 school year, Staten Island Technical High School continues to operate on a Two-Term (Fall & Spring) schedule, with two marking periods per term (**Fall**: Sept-January & **Spring**: Feb-June).

Letter Grade Scale: From the 2017-2018 school year and onward, SITHS has implemented a Letter Grade Rubric, similar to how colleges communicate and track academic progress, *thus ceasing to use the standard numeric Grading Scale of 0-100 to share academic feedback*. All academic feedback will be communicated using the rubric (pictured right) and appear as letter grades:

- on student work products / assessments
- entered into PupilPath
- on the Progress Report / Report Card

For the purpose of the transcript only, student grades will be reported using the numerical equivalent (not the letter). This is to ensure that the grades earned by students, based upon the grading rubric established in 2017, are represented accurately in response to any current or future NYCDOE Academic Policy updates. Any letter grades from previous terms on a transcript will hold the numerical value listed in the rubric above.

SITHS Grading Rubric

Letter	Range	Numerical Equivalent	Assessment Feedback Mastery Grade Codes
A+	100 - 97	100	MAX (Maximum)
A	96 - 93	96	
A-	92 - 89	92	
B+	88 - 85	88	
B	84 - 81	84	APP (Approaching)
B-	80 - 77	80	
C+	76 - 73	76	
C	72 - 69	72	DEV (Developing)
C-	68 - 67	68	
D+	66	66	
D	65	65	
F	<65	55	NY (Not Yet Achieved)

How courses are graded: A student's final grade in a course is the sum of the cumulative work and average of 85% Learning Progress (Mastery Based Measures: Qualitative Grades from Formative & Summative Assessments, Classwork, Homework, Projects, Essays & Papers, Lab Reports, etc.) and 15% Habits of Success (Timeliness & Proactivity, Participation & Collaboration, Citizenship and Oracy), based upon the "Everything Counts" rubric on the opposite side of this page. A student's progress in a course is based on how well they demonstrate their mastery of the content (Learning Progress) and skills (Habits of Success) required in that subject. Work is submitted and graded accordingly based upon the syllabus and established deadlines, with a system for students to ask for extensions and resubmit their work based upon previous feedback cycles throughout the term.

GPA Calculation: Since 2003 a weighted GPA metric was instituted with honor courses weighted at 1.05 and AP courses weighted at 1.1 for the calculation of each student's Cumulative Transcript GPA each February and June. For the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, the cumulative GPA average found on a student's transcript, **will become unweighted** over a four year cycle as follows: (17-18: 9th, 18-19: 9 & 10th, 19-20: 9, 10 & 11th, 20-21: 9, 10, 11 & 12th.)

Ranking / Valedictorian & Salutatorian Policy: Staten Island Technical High School has a **Non-Ranking Policy**. Due to the high caliber of our students and their achievements, ranking is misleading. A student's GPA at S.I. Tech is a measure of performance in a pool of high achievers. These students' GPA, in a more heterogeneous, non-specialized - high academic setting, would set them apart from their peers at the top of their class. Starting with the Class of 2023, the designation of Valedictorian and Salutatorian will no longer be recognized by the school community. For the Class of 2020, 2021 and 2022 the designation of Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be based upon the two students with the highest cumulative grade point average by February of their senior year.

Attendance: As of the 2018-2019 school year and beyond, in consultation and agreement with the School Leadership Team, we as a school community will no longer be recognizing and rewarding Perfect Attendance, in the spirit of Academic and Social Emotional wellness practices. The rationale for this decision can be reviewed via this link: <http://bit.ly/32Cje4b>

TESTING SCHEDULE: In an effort to avoid days from occurring where there are 3-5 full period assessments, the Testing Schedule policy establishes a consistent testing structure, by subject / discipline, and enables strong communications between teachers and students, reducing the "bottleneck" of assessments and the stress that produces.

2019-2020 SITHS September - January Testing Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Science	Math Russian	Science History	English Math	Russian History

2019-2020 SITHS February - June Testing Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Russian History	English Science	Math Russian	Science History	English Math

A Marking Period 1 Grade of "D - / F" and/or a Marking Period 2 Grade of "F" must include the following teacher outreach and documentation throughout the term leading towards the grade:

- Parental contact via phone or Skedula / PupilPath anecdotal for each failing grade earned on an assessment / assignment.
- A parent's acknowledgement is required and a log of Parent Outreach should be maintained.
- Guidance Counselor is included in the correspondence for each failing grade.

EVERYTHING COUNTS



Everything Counts: Staten Island Technical High School's **Universal Grading Policy** utilizes two grade categories to chart student progress with all Academic Data falling into one of two "categories" in the spirit and philosophy that "Everything Counts." All forms of academic work, such as Formative / Summative Assessments (Quizzes / Tests), Classwork, Homework, Projects, Papers, Lab Reports, etc ... anything that measures student learning, is all equal in importance, no matter the subject area or discipline.

The "**Learning Progress**" category is designed to track a student's progress towards achieving content mastery. Measures and indicators of "**qualitative**" progress is the focus of this category, via a practice that emphasizes the "process" of learning and provides students with multiple opportunities to "showcase" understanding and achieving mastery. Learning Progress is worth 85% of the total class grade.

The "**Habits of Success**" category marks a unified approach towards building a set of 6 skills (or academic behaviors), identified as integral for successful academic performance. Habits of Success is worth 15% of the total class grade, divided into 4 subcategories, each worth 3.75%. Feedback in this category intends to inform students on their level of success among a series of Academic Behaviors: **Timeliness & Proactivity, Participation & Collaboration, Citizenship and Oracy.**

TIMELINESS & PROACTIVITY

Students are expected to:

- Arrive to class on time and be prepared to engage in meaningful learning activities, as prompted by the teacher (Ex. Notebook/Device out & ready, Do Now started.)
- Respect deadlines (Classwork, homework, major & minor assignments) and manage time accordingly.
- Take initiative to navigate conflicts and setbacks (Ex. Follow up on missing work due to absenteeism, converses with teacher to discuss progress.)
- Directing focus and attention on active class facilitator

ORACY

Students are expected to:

- Speak with confidence, clarity and fluency
- Recognize the value of listening
- Adapt the use of language for a range of different purposes and audiences
- Concentrate, interpret and respond appropriately to a wide range of listening experiences
- Appreciate the diversity of languages, dialects and accents in the school and value the experience and contributions of children with a wide variety of linguistic backgrounds

CITIZENSHIP

Students are expected to:

- Respect other people and their property
- Adhere to school rules and policies
- Display good character (responsibility, honesty, kindness)
- Give back to the school community

PARTICIPATION & COLLABORATION

Students are expected to:

- Foster cooperation and collaboration in others
- Encourage and enable flexibility
- Facilitate and model teamwork
- Create a culture of accountability
- Foster partnerships

Advanced Placement (AP) Testing Policy: Staten Island Technical High School encourages continued participation in the College Board's Advanced Placement program to ensure that our students' college applicant profile is aligned with other competitive national and international applicants.

Staten Island Tech offers 17 AP courses annually. Every student has access and is guaranteed to graduate with 2-3 AP courses via our Universal AP History initiative and in the spirit of the NYC Dept of Ed's **AP for All / Equity and Excellence** initiatives. Access to the remaining 14-15 AP courses are determined using an objective merit-based selection process. Each of the 17 AP courses have a culminating exam that participating high schools worldwide administer each May. Staten Island Technical High School, fosters the expectation that all students who take an AP course will also take the corresponding AP Exam for the following reasons outlined below:

- **Earn College Credit*** - Your AP score could earn you college credits before you even set foot on campus.
- **Earn Advanced Placement*** - Your AP score can let you skip introductory courses in college.
- **Save Money and Time** - Earning credit / placement can enable you to graduate college early.
- **Stand Out to Colleges** - Taking AP courses and AP Exams shows colleges you've tackled college-level work.

***Nearly all colleges in the USA grant credit and placement for qualifying AP scores. Keep in mind that AP scores may be recognized by your initial, transfer and post graduate colleges on the journey towards your career goals.**

Advanced Placement Exam Timeline & Protocols:

Sept - Oct: Students register for AP course(s), via College Board online portal.

- Payments due via "Total Registration" by 10/29.

November 15th:

- AP Exam School orders due to the College Board based upon AP Course Section Registers.
- A record will be maintained for all students **who do not register** and/or **do not take** their respective AP exam(s), which will be included and submitted in their College Admissions Applicant Profile for the Mid & Final Transcript Phases during senior year.

May : AP Exam Administration

June: In the case of students who originally registered and indicated their intent to take AP exam(s), but were not present to take the AP exam or schedule a makeup exam due to illness, notification to all colleges will be made that the student's college applicant profile has changed.