

About City Poly's Parent Checklists— New York State Learning Standards for Your Child

September, 2010

Dear City Poly Families:

At City Poly, we have high expectations for our students. We know that you, as a family, have high expectations for your child. The way to make sure that our students meet those expectations is for our teachers to work very hard to teach our students every day and for you to work very hard along with us to help your child learn every day. We cannot do it all alone.

We want to involve you in your child's day-to-day education. One way to do that is to make our curriculum an open book so that you can see exactly what your child should be learning.

The New York State Learning Standards are the academic skills that our teachers are responsible for teaching and our students are responsible for learning. They are the basis for our curriculum. They are the basis for what we do in our classrooms every day. They are the basis for a series of parent checklists that we will distribute to you over the next couple of months. The parent checklists will detail the New York State Learning Standards in each subject your child is studying. Knowing the skills your child is supposed to learn will help you talk with your child and with our teachers about how to improve your child's achievement in school.

I am making a promise as the principal at City Poly to —

- Set high expectations for teaching and learning and to see that they are met.
- Know what academic skills have been established by New York State for our students to learn.
- Be available to talk with you about these skills at your convenience.
- Work with our teachers to see that these skills are being taught well.
- Check test results to make sure that our students are learning these skills.

I expect your child's teachers to —

- Teach your child the academic skills established by New York State.
- Use a variety of teaching methods so that every child can learn these skills.
- Spend time before or after school to help your child learn a skill, when necessary.
- Give you suggestions about how to help your child with these skills.
- Keep an up-to-date record of your child's progress in learning these skills.

I expect your child to —

- Work hard in class to learn the academic skills established by New York State.
- Study hard at home each night to learn these skills.
- Let the teacher know when he or she is having difficulty learning a skill.
- Complete all assignments on time and study hard to prepare for tests.
- Come to school on time every day.

City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology

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I expect you as a parent/guardian to —

- Log in to Skedula and check your child's grades, assignments, and attendance every day.
- Review the academic skills established by New York State to see what your child must learn and tell your child that these skills are important.
- Help your child, whenever possible, to learn these skills.
- Ask your child every night about which skills were taught that day in school.
- Come to parent-teacher conferences to discuss your child's progress with our teachers.
- Come to PTA meetings to find out ways to support your child's learning.

Here are 12 tips on how to help students succeed in school. Of course, many of you have your own tips. We will be looking to add yours to this starter list as we go through the year:

1. Insist that your child schedule a definite homework time in a quiet place every evening. Most of our teachers give homework most days.
2. Look over your child's homework *before* it gets turned in to the teacher and again *after* your child brings it back home with a grade on it.
3. Make sure your child always has a book to read. If a book has not been assigned by a teacher, have your child choose a book that is interesting to him or her. Have your child read on his or her own at least several nights a week.
4. Insist that your child get to bed at a reasonable time to prevent sleepiness during the school day.
5. Make sure that your child is prepared with gym clothes on physical education days. City Poly is the only small high school in New York City with its own gym. Insist that your child take advantage of it.
6. Go see a movie or watch a television show with your child and discuss it together. Talk about what made the movie or television show successful or unsuccessful—its characters, its plot, its setting, its message.
7. Encourage your child to get involved in after-school sports, clubs, and activities. For example, City Poly students can run the Brooklyn Bridge with our Bridges Running Club, be a member of our own competition Robotics Club, or dance with professional dancers in our Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater program.
8. Let your child see you read a book or read the newspaper. Let your child see you watch a news program. Let your child see you learn something that is challenging for you. Be a role model for reading, thinking, and learning.
9. Talk with your child about how you use academic skills in your job. Talk about what you do well on the job and what you sometimes need help with, even as an adult.
10. Take your child to visit a college campus right here in New York City. Talk with your child about what it will be like to attend college.
11. Take your child to visit a museum. Discuss what you see—what you like and what you don't like.
12. Find a Web site with information that interests both you and your child. It might be about music or travel or food or sports—or whatever you both enjoy. Look at it together and discuss what you learned.

I look forward to our partnership and to the success of our students.

Sincerely,
Chris Aguirre, Principal