



Student Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

Welcome to eighth grade! I am very excited to begin the new school year at Howell Middle School South and I hope you feel the same. I also anticipate a very productive and enjoyable school year as we all prepare for the transition to high school. Although the year usually progresses without a “hitch” for most students, there have been some notable situations that should be shared with you. Unfortunately, every year in eighth grade there are some students in the school that are unable to walk at graduation (or even move on to high school) for reasons described below.

**District Policy** - [http://www.howell.k12.nj.us/policy\\_main.aspx?id=10](http://www.howell.k12.nj.us/policy_main.aspx?id=10) – Promotion and Retention

The following premises form the basis for the promotion/retention policy of the Howell Public Schools:

6. Middle School students who fail **two** academic subject or more (Lang. Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages), for the academic year will not participate in the graduation ceremony. Those students who fail two academic subjects (Lang. Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages), for the academic year are not eligible for promotion unless they re-take one of the failures and successfully pass it in summer instruction. Academic subjects must be retaken in the following sequence: Language Arts and/or Math, Science, and Social Studies.
7. Middle school students who fail two academic subjects (Lang. Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Languages), for the academic year are not eligible for promotion unless they re-take two of the failures and successfully pass it in summer instruction. Academic subjects must be retaken in the following sequence: Lang. Arts and/or Math, Science, and Social Studies.
8. Middle school students who fail four academic subjects (Lang. Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages), for the academic year will be retained.

As stated above, these potential consequences are the result of students doing poorly in one or more of their classes. Even though the students are made aware of this each year, it still seems to be a big surprise for some when graduation approaches. Therefore, I am making a point of informing everyone this year. This does not, in any way, indicate that your child will do poorly in any of their classes or that it will be too difficult to meet the expectations of their eighth grade teachers, but it is simply my way of being proactive. Any student that reasonably puts effort into their classes is never faced with such a situation; however, these consequences have impacted students in the past. Please contact me if you need to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Jones Jr.".

John R. Jones Jr.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_