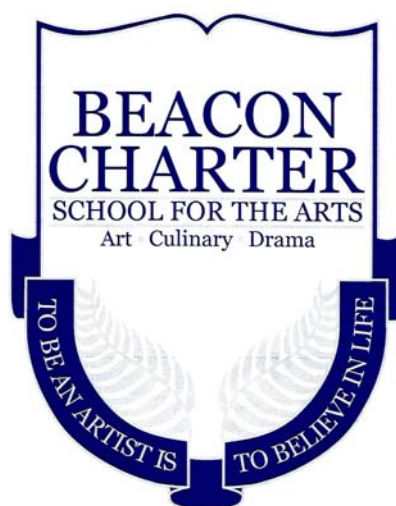


**FAQ Sheet:
How Does a Student Earn a
Performance Based Diploma from Beacon?**



*Essential Guide to Gaining Understanding to the
Proficiency System at Beacon*

2007/2008

*Prepared By:
Robin Murphy
Dean of Students*

Frequently asked questions about PBGR's at Beacon

Where can I best learn about the school's requirements?

The school's PBGR Guidebook (GB) is published on-line at www.beaconart.org. You can find it in the "parent portal" section. Download it to your computer or flash drive. It is an interactive PDF that lets you save changes, edit them later and save your completed project.

The guidebook is essential and it is a "must read" for every Beacon student and parent.

How many credits do I need to graduate?

Thirty two credits are needed to graduate. Twenty four are academic courses and eight are art courses. You must pass every course in order to graduate in four years. If you fail an academic course then you can re-take that course in summer school. Beacon accepts the credits from every RI public high school.

What if a student fails an art class? Do other schools don't offer art in the summer?

Then your parents, the Principal, Dean of Students, the student's Advisor and Academic Dean have to engage in a serious conversation about your graduation status. Why did you fail a course that was your passion for coming to Beacon? Other schools rarely offer art in summer school and finding a summer course for high school credit may be difficult. The student's family can hire a certified teacher to instruct and assess summer work. We will accept that teacher's grade and record of time worked and work accomplished. Special community service arrangements within your art concentration may be available as well.

What is an IGP?

The Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) is a living document that the student is responsible for updating in advisory when in the computer lab. Download the GB to a flash drive and as long as the computer the student is working on has Adobe 7.0 or later than the GB contains editable form fields and text. Even the table of contents is interactive. The IGP is a record of your activity over four years at Beacon.

How do I keep my Portfolio? What is Digication?

Each student has a Digication webpage set up for them. Advisors have advisee's usernames and passwords. Every seven weeks each advisory is in the computer lab to update and check on Digication progress. www.beaconart.digication.com takes you to the school's portal page. Because the portfolio is web-based, a student can work on their portfolio from any computer with an internet connection. The Guidebook has details about Digication that every family should be familiar with.

Other parts of your portfolio will be paper and each student has storage in a locked file cabinet in their Advisory. One of the Advisor's responsibilities is to encourage students to

store work that has been assessed and has met proficiency on that item's rubric. Parents receive an update in the mail in January and July detailing the completeness of their student's portfolio.

In January of the student's senior year the portfolio is presented to a panel using an LCD projector and power point for academic work and Digication for art work and reflections. The Guidebook details this process.

All portfolio requirements are listed in the student agendas issued by the school.

Do students have to do a "capstone" project?

Yes, but it is done as part of a class requirement. If you pass the class, you pass capstone. The course is a two semester senior experience in film studies and film making. Our capstone film program is in its third year and has already been highlighted in many newspapers. The Stadium Theatre is the location of a Capstone Film Festival in early June just prior to graduation.

If a student does not pass capstone there is an appeals process. This appeals process is in the school's code of conduct, the school's guidebook and the student's agendas.

What are the "things" a student has to do to get a PBGR Diploma from Beacon?

1. Earn 32 credits in specific courses
2. Create a Digication spot with at least thirteen entries and reflections
3. Catalog twenty two proficient academic pieces of work with rubric and reflection
4. Create six documents in the "business" section of the portfolio
5. Exhibit the portfolio (items 2 through 4) before a panel in January of the senior year
6. Keep an up to date IGP until the end of the senior year; downloaded, edited and saved
7. Complete the requirements of the Capstone course
8. Secure a post-secondary placement (college/post sec. admission, job offer, enlistment)

These eight items are covered in great detail in the PBGR Guidebook. This list is a simple checklist after four years of work has been organized and assessed.

Who signs off that the student has completed the eight items?

The Principal, Dean of Students and Academic Dean authenticate the assessments and sign off on the completeness and proficiency level of each student's work. The checklist appears on the next page.

PBGR Final Checklist		
Indicator	Proficiency Level (D, M, P, S)	Academic Dean's Initials
32 Credits obtained		
Digication Spot, 13 items		
Academic Component, 22 items		
Business Component, 6 items		
Portfolio Power Point Demo		
Up to date IGP		
Capstone course completed		
Capstone Exhibition score		
Post-secondary placement secure		

By successfully completing the requirements listed above, the student has demonstrated proficiency and will be awarded a Beacon Charter High School for the Arts Performance Based Diploma.

Robert Pilkington, Principal _____

Robin Murphy, Dean of Students _____

Michael Skeldon, Academic Dean _____