

Junior High School Report Card:
Gertrude Elion's Junior High Report Card, 1930

TYPE: Personal Artifact
TIME: 1900-1949
LEVEL: All ages

TOPICS: Health, Education & Welfare

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE CITY OF NEW YORK

REPORT TO PARENTS

Cydon JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Report of *Elion, Gertrude*

Last Name *Elion* First Name *Gertrude*

Term *1st* Class *103*

Ratings	Excellent A or 86 to 100		Good B or 75 to 85		Passing C or 60 to 74		Poor D or 40 to 59		Very Poor E or 0 to 39	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Effort										
Proficiency										
Conduct Self-Control	A		A							
Personal Habits	A									
Times Absent	0									
Times Late	0									
Reading and Literature	3	95	95	95	100	100				
Composition	1	85	90	95	95	80				
Grammar	1	90	90	92	89	100				
Spelling	1	100	100	97	96	98				
Oral Expression			90							
Purmanship										
Arithmetic and Algebra	5	91	84	95	96	93				
History										
Geography										
Shop Cooking										
Science Sewing										
Music	2	100	100	100	100	100				
Physical Training	4	90	90	90	90	80				
Drawing	5	80	80	93	65	80				
Foreign Language	5	97	100	100	100	93				
Biology	5	99	82	86	86	98				
Community Civics										
Bookkeeping										
Stenography										
Typewriting										
Office Practice										

*Winner of medal
given for Federal Excellence
Magna Cum Laude*

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Public education provided a wonderful opportunity for students such as Gertrude Elion. Contrary to popular assumptions, education generally served not as the path from rags to riches for immigrants, but rather as a way to perpetuate the economic security already achieved by the first generation with the educational accomplishments of the second. Elion, the child of immigrants, became a chemist and developed the first chemotherapy for childhood leukemia, the immunosuppressant that made organ transplantation possible, the first effective anti-viral medication, and treatments for lupus, hepatitis, arthritis, gout, and other diseases.

As this early report card indicates, Elion was a superior student in many – although not all – areas. She used her educational opportunities fully, continuing on to Hunter College, which was free to those students able to gain admittance. As a woman in the overwhelmingly male-dominated field of chemistry, however, Elion experienced a great deal of gender discrimination. Despite her outstanding record as an undergraduate, no graduate school was willing to fund her work as a doctoral candidate. She struggled for acceptance and legitimacy in much of her early work, but she persevered and achieved great scientific breakthroughs from which humanity still benefits. She won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1988.

For more information on Elion and her accomplishments, go to JWA's *Women of Valor* exhibit at <http://www.jwa.org/exhibits/wov/elion>.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Compare Elion's report card to one of your own. What similarities and differences do you see?
2. Select a subject in which you are not evaluated but Elion was. What do you think were the criteria for this "subject"? Why are students no longer graded in this area today?
3. In what areas does Elion do less well than others?
4. Why do you think there are some blank columns on this report card?