



Goldddiggers

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Dear Parents/Students:

This letter is being sent to inform you of some positive changes being made at the high school in eligibility that will work well with our class scheduling changes. Both changes have been done with the improvement and focus of our academic programs at the forefront for our students. Our new eligibility requirements will start to be implemented this first quarter so our administration team wanted to send this letter as a reminder of how they will work for our students who participate in extracurricular activities this school year.

Our Activities/Athletic Handbook states:

To be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at Lead-Deadwood Middle/High School, students must meet the requirements of the South Dakota High School Activities Association (earn a minimum of 2 credits for a semester) and be in good standing as a member of Lead-Deadwood school's student body as well as meet the following standards:

Any 6-12 participant must be passing all current classes. They may not have an "F" in any class for the current weekly grading period. Each participant's grades will be checked each week on Friday at 8:00 AM. If the participant has an "F" as a current grade, they will be deemed ineligible for that week – eligibility will go from Sunday thru Saturday.

All students will be eligible at the beginning of the quarter, and their eligibility will be determined based on grades in the current quarter. The exception is that if a student has not passed the minimum 2 (two) credits the prior semester, they are deemed ineligible by the SDHSAA for the entire semester.

A failing grade list and a danger/watch (D grade) list will be sent out to the staff, coaches, and advisors each week. It is the responsibility of the coach/sponsor to check the list for eligibility and inform the student of their status. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their grades and maintain eligibility.

We will work hard with both students and staff to help ease the process but ultimately it is the responsibility of the student to turn in solid work, maintain and check their grade progress for each of their classes. This policy is not designed as a "gotcha" but it is designed to build consistency for solid academic progress, which is the fundamental reason behind every school district.

Our high school will start to do grade checks on September 9th as a first opportunity to make sure grades are being kept in a consistent manner by our staff as well as to check where student progress is at after the first 8 days of school. This will NOT be the first "eligibility" check but only as a progress check since it is a new system. Our first "eligibility" list will be published and given out on Friday, September 23rd.



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Keep in mind a couple of key points to this new policy:

1. Grade checks will be done each Friday at 8:00 AM by the Athletic Director. The list will be created at that time and given to the coaches and staff who need to know who is ineligible for participation the following week.
2. Student work should be turned in by 3:25 the Thursday before grades check on Friday. Any work turned in after that will not be graded for that week's eligibility report – keep in mind that it may be counted as late if it was to be turned in earlier. What we want to avoid is our students or staff doing last minute work and expecting it to be graded just to save eligibility.
3. Once a student is deemed ineligible – the period lasts one week and runs from Sunday thru Saturday. The student would be able to participate on that same Friday or Saturday but would not be able to play in any games or participate in any extracurricular activities the following week.
4. Since this is a weekly policy, the student has the chance to work and raise their grade before the next grade check the following week so the potential to get off the list is always there. The past policy kept them out for 4.5 weeks of the season, so there is more potential to earn back eligibility sooner with this new policy.

As with any change, there will be some questions and concerns...please feel free to ask questions as they arise. We want this to be as smooth as possible for everyone – staff, students, parents, etc. – involved in the process. The biggest key to staying off the list is to do consistent and good work so that grades reflect the quality of work being done. We encourage students to visit with staff if there are issues or problems with doing quality work as well.

Respectfully,

Paul Nepodal

Paul Nepodal, CAA
6-12 Activities/Athletic Director
Lead-Deadwood Schools

Doing Things Better So We Can Do Better Things