

Viking Community Members,

I would like to start by saying, “Isn’t great to be a Viking!” As principal, it is my responsibility to promote and challenge all students to reach their full academic potential. To promote and challenge students, I must raise the level of expectations and standards by which they are rated. We live in a society that forces its students to reach their full academic potential in order to be successful in their adulthood. We must be proactive in this situation and raise our expectations for all of our students.

Improving our standards will help us better prepare our students to develop their talents into successful careers. There are some changes in the student hand book that will help the Leipsic’s staff and community achieve this goal: semester grading system, a +/- scale, and cell phones.

Leipsic Jr/Sr. High School will be moving to a commonly used semester grading system. This means that a student must pass both semesters to earn the full credit for a year long course. If a student only passes one of the two semesters, he/she will only earn .5 credits and must take the failed semester over again the following school year. This is very important for the *seniors* to understand because *they must pass both semesters of the core courses to be eligible to graduate.*

The second change will involve changing our grading system to a +/- scale. This scale is being implemented to provide a more accurate display of a student’s achievements in grades 9-12. For example, a student will be able to earn a B+ or B– as a grade rather than earning a solid B. This is a more descriptive display of a student’s grade he/she has earned.

Obviously, this +/- scale will be used in calculating the students G.P.A. (grade point average), but this change will only affect the grades starting in the school year 2009-2010. Grade points earned to this point will not change; this adjustment is a school year specific calculation that will begin this upcoming school year.

Another change that has occurred in the student hand book involves the use of cell phones. Cell phones cause a great deal of concern for schools in today’s society and really become a safety issue for the students in the school. They perform too many functions (some pretty harmful to students) that will disrupt the educational process of the school day.

The adjustment will involve the consequences for the offenses of having a cell phone during school hours (8:00a.m –3:03p.m.). The first offense, the student will earn a Friday School. The second offense, the student will earn an in-school suspension (1-3 days). The third offense, the student will earn an out-of-school suspension (1-3 days). The fourth offense, the student will earn 5-10 days out-of-school suspension.

In every offense, the phone will be confiscated by the staff member and turned into the high school office. The phone will only be released to a parent/guardian of the student.

I am extremely excited about the upcoming school year. It should bring new and exciting challenges to our students. It will provide each of them the opportunity to reach a new level efforts and achievement. It is our opportunity to separate ourselves from the other Putnam County Schools and demonstrate why we are the best school in the county.

In Education,

Michael L. Bute, Principal