

LEYDEN HIGH SCHOOLS

DISTRICT 212

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Tuesday, September 2, 2008

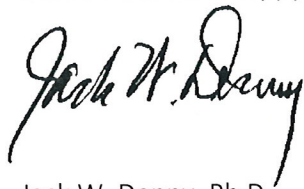
Dear Parents,

As we begin a new school year, the Leyden High Schools are initiating a new method of semester grade calculation that will affect your student. The purpose of this letter is to share information about the differences between the previous and current systems so that you will understand the meaning of grade reports that you will see during each semester. Our change has occurred only after the matter of grade calculation was discussed thoroughly over a two-year period among administrators, department chairs, teachers, students, and the Board of Education. We believe – and think that you will find – that the new method not only favors accuracy of the grade reports but also better serves the students of our community.

Prior to the 2008-2009 school year, semester grades were calculated by classroom teachers using a 40-40-20 method. In this method, each 9-week “quarter” received a separate grade that represented 40% of the total semester calculation. The final exam’s weight of 20% was then added to arrive at a final semester grade for the course. Using the new system, students’ grades are not separated by 9-week quarters but rather run continuously from the first to the eighteenth week of the semester. The three progress reports that are issued during the full 18-week semester show students’ cumulative grade performance at that point in time. You may want to think of each progress grade as the grade that your student would receive in that class if there were no more grades to be assigned. Since there are no longer quarter grades, there will be no quarter honor roll. Honor roll will be reported at the conclusion of each semester only.

The new 80-20 method should guard against under-or over-estimation of course grades in progress. If you would like to view a sample of how the new method compares with the calculation method of the past, visit the Leyden Web site: “Grade Calculation” on the **Student Info** pull-down menu. And, as always, classroom teachers are happy to provide answers to questions that you may have. Do not hesitate to contact them!

Best wishes for a happy and successful school year.



Jack W. Denny, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

JD/Correspondence/Parents