Dear Benjamin Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to inform 5th grade parents and remind all other grade level parents about our Eligibility policy for sports and extra-curricular clubs. Students are ineligible for a sport or activity due to having either two D's or one F in their academic classes. Specific grade details for your child can be found on PowerSchool. Eligibility is run on every Thursday and checked by teachers for updated grades. Students, parents and coaches are informed on Friday of their ineligibility and students are still allowed to participate in the activity through the Sunday of that week. Their ineligibility starts the following Monday and they are out the entire week which should be spent concentrating on their studies to raise their grades by the next Thursday when grades will be run again. Their eligibility to participate starts the following Monday which means that each case of ineligibility lasts seven days.
Teachers will inform parents and coaches and I will talk to the students personally each Friday so they know exactly what their grade is and to make clear that their ineligibility is for the entire next week. Students often think if they raise their grade on Tuesday they should be able to go to their activity that afternoon. We use the same policy the IESA (Illinois Elementary School Association) uses for the eligibility of their participants and it ensures that:

1. There are no "surprises", a student finds out on Friday and can still participate through Sunday of that week, as opposed to some policies where anytime a teacher grades an assignment that results in the students grade dropping, said student would be ineligible immediately and be pulled out of that afternoon's practice/game/activity.
2. The student has a week to work on getting their grades up and they know grades will be checked on Thursday for them to be eligible to play again on Monday of the following week.

Eligibility will start this Friday, September 18th. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Michael Fitzgerald Ed.D.
Principal
Benjamin Middle School
Assistant Superintendent of Learning & Teaching
Benjamin SD 25