



**Bloomington Public Schools
School District 87**

Dr. Robert Nielsen
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Teresa Hill
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Barry Reilly
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Mr. David Wood
Chief Financial & Legal Officer

Memo

To: Dr. Robert Nielsen

From: Dr. Teresa Hill
Dr. Susan Silvey

Re: BJHS Proposed Requirements for Advancement

After reviewing course grades and student achievement data, we feel that it is important to raise the standard for promotion/advancement at the middle school level. This move is consistent with the improvements we have made in curriculum and instruction at the middle school level and the increase in the high school graduation requirements. It also reflects the ongoing trend of high student achievement at Bloomington Junior High School.

We propose changing the promotion standards to indicate that promotion/advancement to the next grade at Bloomington Junior High School will be based on:

- Earning passing grades (D or better) for 75% of all quarters during the school year
AND
- Earning passing grades for 3 of the 4 quarters in each of the core areas including Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science and PE/Health

This will mean an average student with 28 quarter grades would have to pass 21 quarters under the new standard (instead of 18). It will also mean that students will need to pass classes in all of the core areas. If students do not meet the standard for promotion, they will be able to attend summer school for up to two courses. By successfully completing summer school, the student will be able to earn promotion to the next grade. If a student fails 3 or more courses, he/she will be retained.

High school courses taken at the middle level will count toward the seventy-five percent core requirement. Since high school courses are semester classes, the requirement of earning passing grades in three of the four grading periods will not apply. Middle school students taking high school classes will earn a grade each quarter at the junior high school that will be used for calculating Honor/High Honor Roll, Honor Society eligibility, and Grade Point Average.

Middle school students taking Algebra 1, Honors Geometry and/or first or second year foreign language will receive credit on their high school transcripts and the grades will count toward high school Grade Point Average (GPA) calculations and class rank.

If approved, this change will go into effect for the 2009-10 school year for all students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Information about this policy will be shared with parents through parent letters in the summer of 2009. It will also be presented during orientation and at the beginning of the year assembly with the students. The policy will be updated in the BJHS handbook and on the school website. In addition, parents of students in danger of being retained will be notified through progress reports. BJHS administrators will closely monitor student progress to ensure that supports are available for students who need them.

We believe this change will be beneficial to all of our students as they move through middle school. Experience has taught us that excellent instruction and high expectations lead to high student achievement.