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Dear Skyline Students and Parents,

A comprehensive high school, like Skyline, endeavors to provide a mix of classical and traditional liberal arts education. This means we work to help students understand how to learn as well as teach them English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and an array of electives. In addition to these academic pursuits, a comprehensive high school works to expose students to the arts and athletics. The activities associated with these other two aspects of a comprehensive high school provide students many additional opportunities to develop talents and display them as well. In the display of these talents, it is often required to be exclusionary. Through rigorous competition, certain students are selected to showcase their talents.

The process of selection is often where conflict arises amongst our community. It evolves as the selection of the rosters of sports teams, the cast of a play, the composition of the choirs, the members of the dance teams, the first chair of an instrument, a single winning piece of art, playing time and many others are determined by our staff. The determination by the person in charge often is challenged by others and thus the conflict is born. It is with great effort that the teachers and staff work to select what they think will produce the best Skyline has to offer. Teachers and coaches have fairness and impartiality as a standard during the selection process. This carries over to the selection of participants throughout the season. Like any other comprehensive high school, this exclusionary process produces the winning of championships and the dashing of individual student's hopes and dreams. It is not done lightly and causes all involved much anguish. The concept of excluding students flies in the face of what we strive to be about. Yet, it is a necessary process.

Given the nature of this process, it is imperative that we work with the selected students to be good leaders and representatives of Skyline. We value the teaching of life lessons over winning. We value the effort over the result. We demand a winning character over a winning result. I am so pleased that our staff works diligently to train our students in these activities with these behaviors as expectations. I ardently believe that it is not winning records or high achievement that defines Skyline. Rather, it is the good character of our students that sets Skyline apart. I am so proud to be part of the Eagles family that values these things. The good character found in our community helps to explain why our students RISE in so many instances.

Thank you,
Dr. Mitch Nerdin, Principal