



Archdiocese of Detroit

DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELIZATION, CATECHESIS AND SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Pastors and Principals,

The office of Catholic Schools would like to take this opportunity to offer to you the history of the transition and implementation of the Archdiocese of Detroit Catholic Schools Grading Scale.

Q. Why do the schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit need one, standard grading scale.

- A. At the start of the 2011-2012 academic school year, the Office of Catholic Schools, under the direction of the former Director, Dr. Margie Crooks, began the process of implementing the PowerSchool data system throughout the Archdiocese. By transferring our schools to the PowerSchool data system, all of the Archdiocese buildings now have a consistent and comprehensive process in place; however it required the utilization of a universal grading scale. Thus, a committee was formed to research the grading scales that were currently being used in the Archdiocese.

Q. Who was on the committee?

- A. The committee was made up of representative principals and associate superintendents throughout all four regions. The committee met on numerous occasions to discuss the variety of grading scales being used, effectiveness of the scale(s), transition from elementary school to high school, student achievement, among other concerns.

Q. What did the committee find?

- A. The committee found that the majority of our schools were using a grading scale that was a 7 point scale that had been historically implemented by all schools within our Archdiocese. They did find a small number of schools that were using a straight 10 point scale very similar to what you find in the public elementary schools. The committee also found that the largest discrepancy among our schools was in the "C" range; they found scales to be anywhere between 7 points to 15 points. Lastly, the committee found that the Catholic high schools were not aligned to a standard scale as well; varying from the 10 point to the 7 point scale.



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Q. How was the final scale developed?

A. After much discussion among the committee members, as well as discussions that were held at the individual schools among their staff, the current Archdiocesan Grading Scale was going to remain in place and that all school would have to comply by the 2014-2015 school year. The major factors in keeping with this scale were the amount of schools already aligned to it and the rigor and high academic standards it assessed.

Grades 3-8 will use the following grading scale:

A	100-95
A-	94-93
B+	92-91
B	90-87
B-	86-85
C+	84-83
C	82-76
C-	75-74
D+	73-72
D	71-68
D-	67-65
F	64

PK to Grade 2:

O-Outstanding, S-Satisfactory, and N-Needs improvement.
Assessed on standards developed by the curriculum committee.

The PK-2 scale was decided upon because the committee found that the majority of our schools were not using traditional letter grades for the lower elementary years; they were already grading based on the above scale.

Q. Who approved and made the final decision?

A. The committee presented their recommendations to Director of the Office of Catholic Schools Dr. Crooks for final approval. Dr. Crooks made the final decision and called for full alignment and implementation of the recommended scale by all Archdiocesan elementary schools by the 2014-2015 academic school.



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Q. How were the individual schools notified of the alignment and implementation process?

A. On September 27, 2012 a letter from the Office of Catholic Schools was sent to all elementary school principals in the Archdiocese stating the following:

“During the implantation of the PowerSchool data information system, committees were formed for input on various aspects of the program. One such group was the report card committee. The committee recommended the following grading scale.

Adopting a new grading scale and acclimating the school community to the change requires significant dialogue with your pastor and parent groups.

Schools may choose to implement the Report Card grading scale this academic year, however, all AOD elementary schools will be required to adopt the scale for the start of the 2014-2015 school year.”

We do understand that this will be a change in some communities, but in order for us to remain consistent throughout the Archdiocese it is imperative to have one universal grading scale and curriculum throughout all our schools for mutual understanding. As an Archdiocese, we are moving forward together as a unified system providing our students with a spiritual foundation that will help guide them as they grow. We are also providing all our students with a rigorous, academic foundation that will allow each child to be successful.

Grace and Blessings,

Dr. Brian Dougherty
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