



Office of Catholic Schools
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Greetings Parents,

I am enormously grateful for our ongoing partnership during the temporary closure of our Catholic school system due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Over the past several weeks, our Catholic educators have been working hard to continue the learning of our students through e-learning and alternative learning. As students complete e-learning/alternative learning work, it is important that their work be graded by their teacher(s). The purpose of this letter is to clarify how e-learning/alternative learning should take place while our school buildings are closed.

Grading and assessment are key components of how students learn during any situation. This time of remote learning does create a challenge in the way teachers have traditionally communicated feedback to students. We expect that teachers will continue to provide feedback on student work in key content and skill areas. However, remote learning will require more flexibility on the part of teachers, students, and parents/guardians.

The archdiocese has been carefully considering the guidelines distributed by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in regards to grading. We have instructed our schools to do the following:

- Ensure that positive learning continues through e-learning and alternative learning
- Communicate frequently with students and parent/guardians about grading and student performance
- Students should continue to receive grades for assignments, as well as end-of-term grades, based upon the local school's grading scale
- Student grades prior to the implementation of remote learning should only be maintained or improved

Your principal's local grading policy is attached for your reference.

I know that this has been a challenging time for our families and educators. However, I have been impressed and inspired by the remote learning taking place. Please know that we care deeply about the education of your child and continue to take seriously our Catholic mission to serve all children. If you have any questions about our approach to grading, please contact your local principal or the Office of Catholic Schools. I pray that you remain healthy and safe.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rigg
Superintendent
Archdiocese of Chicago