



October 16, 2023

Dear Lourdes Catholic School Families,

Two weeks ago I started to share with you changes regarding grading and report cards. Today I'd like to share more information about standards-based assessment as well as start to explain what the new report card will look like.

Standards-based grading, sometimes called proficiency grading, is a method for teachers to measure how students are doing in meeting the learning goals for their grade as determined by their state's standards, in our case, Iowa. Learning goals, sometimes called learning standards, are the academic skills your child should know or be able to do for his grade level by the end of the school year. Notice the timeline mentioned is "by the end of the school year", so the report card you will see may have some parts without a grade, especially after the 1st Quarter reporting period.

Standards-based report cards give a grade for each learning goal, so students receive multiple grades in each subject area. At the end of the month you will see the new report card (K-8) and will probably note right away the amount of information presented to you. In 5th grade math, for example, you'll see the subject broken into several categories, such as operations/algebraic thinking and fractions. Under each category, you'll see a list of math skills your child should be able to do, as well as a grade showing how your child is doing.

Work habits—which teachers may call "learning behavior" or "success attributes"—are graded separately to provide an accurate picture of your child's academic achievement. Behavior includes aspects like completing tasks on time, coming to class prepared, and contributing positively to class discussions. Many of the teachers shared a rubric during Conferences titled "Work Ethic". This supports the transition of reporting this information separate from the new report card.

My hope is to gradually roll out information to you as we lead up to the new Report Card which will be sent home at the end of the month. I will provide additional information about this

transition and about standards-based, standards-referenced assessment in next week's Principal's Post with another parent letter.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Selden