



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON

Office of Catholic Schools

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Dear Parents of Our Diocesan Parish Schools,

I pray that all of you have been able to find joyful ways to celebrate Easter despite the restrictions of social distancing necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I write today to let you know that our schools have received guidance from my office regarding grading during the last Trimester of the school year. This guidance provides specific detail for kindergarten-to-2nd grade, third-to-eighth grade, and specials/electives.

The basis of the grading guidance that has been issued is a focus on each student's ability to continue to make progress during this difficult time and to do that, in part, by giving them as much credit as possible for the work they have been able to complete. This approach assumes an earnest effort by children and families to engage in the eLearning process, but also recognizes that the circumstances for families have been challenging. From the moment the eLearning model was implemented in our schools, we have been calibrating the volume and pace of delivery to ensure expectations that are reasonable. As we now record the progress made by students during this period, a similarly reasonable approach is being taken, one that will give students the benefit of the doubt and reflect a focus on essential standards. Principals will be providing additional specifics about the recording of grades for Trimester-3.

During this period that has highlighted the critical parent-school partnership in Catholic education, we have all worked together on behalf of the future of our church and nation – your children. I thank you in advance for all that you will do in the coming weeks to help your child(ren) advance despite the circumstances. Our teachers will partner with your children as they approach the finish line and give them as much credit as possible for the progress they make. They are passionate about their vocation as Catholic educators, take great pride in their work, and miss your children a great deal.

To be sure, this Trimester will long be remembered by those who have lived through it as students, teachers, parents and administrators. It will also be understood as one during which unique adjustments were required to maintain continuity of learning for students. As we pray for end to the COVID-19 pandemic, we pray too for our students, especially our 12th and 8th graders whose springtime graduation celebrations are impacted so dramatically.

Sincerely in Christ,

Joseph E Vorbach III, PhD, MEd
Superintendent of Schools