



August 22, 2022

Dear Holy Trinity Parents and Guardians,

All elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Portland are transitioning to a Standards-Referenced Grading (SRG) system by the 2024-2025 school year. For the past three years, teacher teams and school leadership across the Archdiocese of Portland have prioritized standards, developed proficiency scales, and trained in research-based best practices for instruction and assessment. I have served on the leadership team to research, prepare and plan for the move to SRG. Our School Advisory Council has discussed and researched this switch for many years. We are all excited for this improvement to grading and communicating growth.

Standards communicate what students should know and be able to do by the end of each academic year. Student mastery of grade-level standards is evaluated through proficiency scales and forms the basis of Standards-Referenced Grading. In this system, students are given multiple opportunities guided by teacher feedback to demonstrate mastery of individual standards.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, six schools will participate in an Archdiocesan Standards-Referenced Grading Report Card pilot. Holy Trinity Catholic School is one of the pilot schools. We are moving PK, K, 1, 2, 3, and 4 to a Standards Referenced Grading system. Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will move to a SRG system next year- 2023-2024.

For the past two years, HT has prepared for this move. Teachers have attended multiple trainings with the Department of Catholic Schools and [Marzano Research](#). Our professional development continues this August during In-Service week and throughout the 22-23 school year. We are excited to make this move! As teachers and graders, we will be able focus on priority standards, provide more specific feedback and identify student growth better than before. We have several teachers on our staff that have already taught in a Standards Referenced Grading system, and will serve as our leaders for implementation at HT.

What changes will parents see?

- In grades PK-4, parents will see proficiency scales attached to graded work. Scores vary from 0.0 to 4.0. The numbers on a proficiency scale represent a continuum of learning, not a set of scores to be averaged. The scores also do not equal a percentage or letter grade. For example, a 3 out of 4 is not 75% and it is not C. *(See a general proficiency scale below)*

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|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Score 4.0</b> | In addition to score 3.0 performance, the student demonstrates in-depth inferences and applications that go beyond what was taught. |
| <b>Score 3.5</b> | In addition to score 3.0 performance, partial success with score 4.0 content.   |
| <b>Score 3.0</b> | Target content or level of mastery required for all students.   |
| <b>Score 2.5</b> | No major errors or omissions regarding score 2.0 content and partial success with 3.0 score content.                                |
| <b>Score 2.0</b> | Simple content or basic knowledge and skill necessary for mastery of target content   |
| <b>Score 1.5</b> | Partial success with score 2.0 content and major errors regarding score 3.0 content.  |
| <b>Score 1.0</b> | With help, partial success with score 2.0 content and score 3.0 content.  |
| <b>Score 0.5</b> | With help, partial success with score 2.0 content but not with score 3.0 content.   |
| <b>Score 0.0</b> | Even with help, no success. No understanding or skill demonstrated.   |

Source: Hoegh, J. K., Heflebower, T., & Warrick, P. B. (2019). *A handbook for developing and using proficiency scales in the classroom*. Marzano Resources.

- Report cards for PK-4 will be different this year. Working with the Department of Catholic Schools and FACTS, a standard Catholic school report card has been created with priority standards listed instead of skills or general subject areas.
- In grades 5-8, parents will see proficiency scales and a focus on priority standards. Grading, grades and report cards will not change this year.

Why not switch PK-8 in one year?

- Grades in 6-7-8 are heavily weighted by our Catholic High Schools. We feel changing this year, without a pilot, would cause undue stress on our Middle School students and families.
- A pilot in grades that are not so competitive will allow us to find and fix any issues without undue stress.
- Catholic High Schools are prepared to accept and understand Standards Referenced report cards. They already receive many! A Standards Referenced report card will not hurt a HT student applying to Catholic High School.

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For more information, please see the attached resources:

- [Letter from Dr. Jeannie Ray-Timoney, Superintendent of the Department of Catholic Schools](#)
- [Stakeholder's Guide to Standards Referenced Grading](#)
- [Standards Referenced Grading Brochure](#)
- [Department of Catholic Schools Standards Referenced Grading Resource page](#)

Each teacher will discuss Standards Referenced Grading, proficiency scales and priority standards with parents at Back to School Night. I will share more information and host a parent session in mid- September. If you have questions, please consider speaking with a School Advisory Council member. You can always contact me as well.

All the best,  
Ashley Sheridan  
Principal

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