



# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

## Office of Catholic Schools

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 503 • Arlington, VA 22203  
Office (703) 841-2519 • Fax (703) 524-8670  
catholicschools@arlingtondiocese.org

March 13, 2018

Dear Parents:

Greetings of Peace!

The Diocese of Arlington is undertaking a change in the grading period system that will become effective for the 2018-2019 School Year for our Catholic elementary schools. Catholic elementary schools will transition to a trimester system. This system divides the academic calendar into three sections and eliminates the quarter system. This system is utilized by a number of Catholic schools and dioceses including the Diocese of Harrisburg, Diocese of Charlotte, Diocese of Des Moines, Diocese of Orlando and schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The marking period moves from a four quarter 9 week system to trimesters consisting of 12 weeks. The longer marking period allows students more opportunities to learn material, internalize key concepts, and show growth and improvement. The trimester system also aligns with our Scantron Performance Series testing that takes place three times a year.

This change was made in consultation with all diocesan principals both at the elementary school and high school level. It was important for us to consider any implications related to transition to the high school setting. This change in marking period system will not impact a student's ability to be accepted at area high schools.

We look forward to full implementation next year. Your school principal can answer any questions you may have at the local level about how this change will impact your students.

Thank you for your continuing support of Catholic education and may God bless you during this Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,

Jennifer Bigelow, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools