



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE
OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL

10 October 2024

Dear Friends:

Recent legislation has transitioned Louisiana public schools to a 10-point grading scale for the 2024-2025 school year. Considering this change, Catholic school leadership within the Diocese of Baton Rouge, in collaboration with the Diocesan School Board, has conducted thorough research and held multiple discussions about when and whether this grading system should be implemented. As a result, a recommendation was made to Bishop Duca for a pilot group of schools to transition to the 10-point grading scale in the current year; this would be followed with a uniform diocesan-wide transition to the 10-point grading scale in 2025-2026 school year beginning 01 August 2025.

Research indicates the 10-point grading scale is now the prevalent scale across the country; adopting it will allow students in the Diocese of Baton Rouge to remain competitive in securing those scholarships that are crucial for students preparing to enter colleges and universities. Many universities in Louisiana already use the 10-point grading scale, and transitioning to this system will ensure our students are well-prepared to compete for these important scholarship opportunities. Aligning the grading system according to the standards accepted in many states ensures consistency and competitiveness for diocesan students on a broader level. After careful consideration, the transition to this system will begin this school year with three pilot schools: St. Thomas Aquinas Diocesan Regional School in Hammond, St. Michael the Archangel Diocesan Regional School in Baton Rouge, and in the partnership between St. Theresa School in Gonzales and St. John the Evangelist Primary School in Prairieville.

The goal is to complete the transition to a uniform 10-point grading scale across all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge by the 2025-2026 school year. This will enable students to join other private and public schools that have already made this shift, ensuring academic equity and competitiveness for scholarships.

As a local church, the Diocese of Baton Rouge remains committed to maintaining the rich tradition of faith and academic excellence in partnership with families.

Yours in the Lord,

Very Reverend Jamin Scott David, JCL
Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia