

Nov. 3, 2017

Dear Parents,

You may be aware that over the last two years ago the Diocese started revamping the grading system with the hope that all the Catholic schools would eventually use a unified system. It has been an ongoing challenge to find consensus on best practices, while meeting the needs of our individual school communities.

One item that has brought ongoing stress and frustration with teachers, parents and even students has been eliminating 0's as the lowest grade and giving a 50 instead, particularly for work that is not even attempted. After much discussion, we have decided to make a change and it will be effective starting with the second trimester (Nov. 6, 2017). We will continue to award a 50 for assessments where the grade is below a 50. The change will be that if a student does not attempt to complete the work and therefore doesn't turn anything in, the grade will remain a 0.

Two areas of the handbook will be affected and are identified below.

#### **REPORTING GRADES – p. 18**

Individual assignments will be assessed either traditionally or by using a rubric. When traditional grading is used, 50% will be the lowest failing grade recorded **unless a student does not complete the work at all. Failure to complete work will result in a zero – (revised Nov. 3, 2017)**

#### **MISSING WORK – p. 21**

Teachers will put a zero in the grade book until the missing work is turned in. Teachers understand that a zero (on the percentage scale) on an assignment is a disproportionate penalty that places the student at a disadvantage when it comes to making up the grade deficit. At the end of the trimester each zero is replaced with a 50 **unless the work has not been turned in at all, then the grade will remain a zero (revised Nov. 3, 2017)**. It should be the goal of every student to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Middle school students with missing work will be sent to lunch study hall to complete it.

We will be having conversations with the students so they are aware of the change and appreciate your support in reminding your children to give the necessary effort to complete all of their work and turn it in on time.

If you have questions or concerns by all means contact your child's teacher.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Bogataj