Subject: Update to Grading Scale for Grades 4–12 Beginning 2026–2027

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to share an important update that will impact students in grades 4–12 across Archdiocesan schools beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

After thoughtful review and collaboration among school leaders, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will adopt a standardized grading scale and GPA structure for students in grades 4–12. This change is intended to better align with collegiate grading scales, while also expanding scholarship opportunities for our students, and to bring greater consistency and clarity as they progress through our schools and prepare for high school and beyond.

What is changing?

Beginning next school year, schools will use:

Letter Grade	**Grading Scale**	**GPA points**
A+	97-100	4.00
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	0-59	0.00

For high school students, honors and advanced coursework will continue to carry additional GPA weighting, now applied consistently across all Archdiocesan high schools.

Why are we making this change?

There are several important reasons for this shift:

- Consistency across grade levels and schools
  Students will experience a clear and consistent grading system as they move from elementary through high school.
- Alignment with high school and college expectations
  This scale reflects the grading practices used in our high schools and aligns with many colleges and universities, including Indiana University and Purdue University.
- Clarity for students and families
  The updated system provides more defined grading distinctions and removes confusion about how grades translate across schools.
- Commitment to academic rigor and growth
  This scale supports high expectations while offering more precise feedback to guide student learning.

What does this mean for your student?

For students in grades 4–8, this change is primarily about creating consistency and clearer feedback. Teachers will continue to support student growth, and classroom practices will remain focused on helping each child learn and improve.

For high school students, this ensures that grading and GPA calculations are aligned across all Archdiocesan schools and are clearly understood by colleges and universities.

We recognize that any change to grading can raise questions. Our schools are committed to helping families understand the shift and what it means for their child.

We are here to support you

Your principal and school team will provide additional information specific to your school and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. It is a privilege to support your child’s growth, both academically and as a person of faith.

Sincerely,
Office of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Grading Scale Update (Grades 4–12)
Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Archdiocese changing the grading scale?

This change creates consistency across all schools serving grades 4–12 and aligns our grading practices with high school and college expectations. It ensures that students are being evaluated using a system that is widely understood and recognized by colleges, including Indiana University and Purdue University.

What is the new grading scale?

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	GPA points
A+	97-100	4.00
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	0-59	0.00

This allows for more precise and consistent grading across all schools.

How will this affect my child in elementary or middle school?

For students in grades 4–8, this change is primarily about consistency and clarity. Teachers will continue to support student growth in the same ways they always have. The grading scale simply provides a clearer structure for how performance is reported.

There is no change to the care, support, or expectations teachers have for your child.

How will this affect GPA?

GPA is primarily calculated at the high school level.

For high school students:

- A grade of 93–100 earns a 4.0
- Honors courses receive additional weighting
- Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual Credit courses receive additional weighting

The system is now consistent across all Archdiocesan high schools.

Will this change impact my child's transcript?

Yes, in a positive way. A standardized grading scale ensures that transcripts from all Archdiocesan schools are consistent and clearly understood by colleges and universities.

Will classes be less rigorous?

The expectations for learning are not changing. What is changing is how grades are organized and reported.

The updated scale provides clearer distinctions between levels of performance, which can feel different at first, but ultimately gives a more accurate picture of student learning.

Why start this in grade 4?

Beginning in grade 4 allows students to become familiar with the grading scale early, so that the transition into middle school and high school feels natural and consistent.

Will schools still support students who struggle?

Absolutely. This change does not alter the commitment of our schools to meet the needs of every student. Teachers will continue to provide support, feedback, and opportunities for growth.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Your child's principal or school office is the best place to start. Each school will provide additional details specific to their implementation.

Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Office of Catholic Schools

Policy Title: Grading Scale and GPA Alignment (Grades 4–12)
Effective Date: 2026–2027 Academic Year

Purpose

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis adopts a standardized grading scale and GPA structure for students in grades 4–12 to ensure consistency, academic rigor, and alignment across all schools. This policy supports transparency for students and families while strengthening the integrity of academic reporting and preparing students for high school and postsecondary expectations.

Policy Statement

Beginning with the 2026–2027 academic year, all Archdiocesan schools serving grades 4–12 will implement a standardized grading scale based on a 90–80–70–60 framework. This scale aligns with common collegiate grading practices, including those used by Indiana University and Purdue University, and establishes consistency from elementary through high school.

This grading structure reflects a commitment to:

- Academic rigor and clarity in expectations
- Consistency across Archdiocesan schools and grade levels
- Alignment with high school and college grading systems
- Equity in GPA calculation and student transcripts

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used for all students in grades 4–12:

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	GPA points
A+	97-100	4.00
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	GPA points
D-	60-62	0.67
F	0-59	0.00

Important Clarification

An A+ designation will not be used within the Archdiocesan grading scale for GPA calculation. A grade of 93–100 will earn a 4.00 GPA, ensuring that students are not required to earn above a 93 to receive the highest GPA value.

Schools may report an A+ for local recognition if desired, but it will not carry additional GPA weight.

GPA Weighting Structure

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	GPA points	Hon1 GPA points	Hon2 GPA points
A+	97-100	4.00	4.50	5.00
A	93-96	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90-92	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	83-86	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80-82	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	73-76	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70-72	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	67-69	1.33	1.83	2.33
D	63-66	1.00	1.50	2.00
D-	60-62	0.67	1.17	1.67
F	0-59	0.00	0.00	0.00

GPA weighting applies to high school coursework. Each high school will implement weighting according to the Archdiocesan scale. Elementary and middle school grading will follow the same grading scale for consistency, but will not calculate GPA unless locally determined.

Rationale and Alignment

This policy reflects several key considerations:

1. Alignment Across Grade Levels

Students will experience a consistent grading structure from grade 4 through high school, reducing confusion and supporting smoother academic transitions.

2. Alignment with Higher Education
Indiana University and Purdue University utilize a plus/minus grading system with a 4.0 cap. Aligning with these systems ensures that Archdiocesan transcripts are clearly understood and appropriately interpreted by colleges.

3. Academic Rigor
The 90–80–70–60 scale reinforces clear academic benchmarks and maintains high expectations for student performance. The inclusion of plus/minus distinctions provides greater accuracy in evaluating student achievement.

4. Consistency Across Schools
A unified grading scale ensures fairness for all students within the Archdiocese, regardless of school, and supports consistent communication with families and external institutions.

5. High School Readiness
Introducing this scale in grades 4–8 builds familiarity and prepares students for high school expectations.

Implementation Expectations

• All schools serving grades 4–12 will adopt this grading scale beginning in the 2026–2027 academic year
• Schools are responsible for clearly communicating changes to students, families, and faculty
• Report cards, transcripts, and student handbooks must reflect the updated grading scale and GPA structure
• Schools may not modify the grading scale or GPA structure without approval from the Office of Catholic Schools

Communication Guidance

Given that grading practices are highly visible and impactful, schools should:

• Provide clear explanations to families regarding the rationale for the change
• Emphasize consistency across grade levels and alignment with high school and college expectations
• Acknowledge that while individual impacts may vary, the system benefits students over time

Oversight

The Office of Catholic Schools will monitor implementation and provide guidance to ensure fidelity to this policy.