



Standards-Based Grading Pilot Program 2016-17

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, St. Catherine's Middle School's Math and English Departments will be using Standards-Based grading and reporting system. This grading system is currently being adopted by all Milwaukee Archdiocesan schools.

We have been preparing for this transition for four years, as this new grading system will:

- Be better aligned to St. Catherine's school mission
- Provide more consistent feedback to students and parents
- Provide more precise feedback to students and parents
- Encourage students to be more active in their learning
- Ensure student mastery of grade-level standards
- Provide increased rigor and enrichment opportunities

As with any transition, extra support will be provided for parents and students before and throughout the school year. More details and concrete examples will be shared with parents at Angel Prep Day, Back to School Night and Parent Teacher Conferences (October).

Additionally, the design of the rollout of the Standards-Based grading system for only middle school English and Math for 2016-2017 is intentional. This will allow for special emphasis being placed on the successful transition to middle school for these classes only. All middle school teachers have been trained for the past several years on this grading system, and will be able to collaborate and support the Math and English Department and students for a successful year. This will also provide time for informal parent input throughout the year and formal parent input at the end of the year.

WE WILL BE PRESENTING TO MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS ON AUGUST 15TH FOR ANGEL PREP DAY. PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR A QUICK PRESENTATION AND SHARING OF RESOURCES.

All decisions made at St. Catherine's are based on best practices through academic research. Please see the resources below for more in-depth information and background on a standards based grading system:

[Why should a parent be excited about standards based grading?](#)

[What does the research say about standards based grading?](#)

[Grading to communicate](#)

[Seven reasons for standards based grading](#)

Parents with questions about Standards-Based Grading and its implementation at St. Catherine's are welcome to contact [Assistant Principal Mr. Tillmann](#) or [Principal Ms. Hunt](#).