



2016

Dear Parents of Elementary Students,

The Mission Statement of the Diocese of Allentown expresses the “Commitment to assist students to achieve academic excellence in faith filled environments that foster Communities of Faith.” This journey towards excellence happens in many ways; most recently with enhancements to the elementary report card and the implementation of trimesters for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Diocese of Allentown’s elementary report card has gone through a revision to accommodate the Diocesan expectations and standards, the awareness of the skills and understanding that students will need in order to find success in secondary school, college and in the workplace. The purpose of the change is that we continue to plan, work, and teach in order that our students achieve academic excellence. This is done by using research based standards, best practices from the literature, and the experience of successful teachers, all within the context of a faith community.

In addition to our new report card, trimesters will be implemented beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. Trimesters are a research based grading opportunity that is developmentally appropriate for elementary and middle school students. Instead of the 9 weeks that we have now, each trimester will be 12 weeks in length, extending the instruction and assessment period from 45 to 60 days. The trimesters begin in August, November and March and reports will be given December, March and June. Progress reports will be distributed in the middle of each trimester. The additional instructional time afforded through the trimester model will provide more in-depth teaching, systematic pacing and ongoing assessment opportunities.

Lastly, conferences will be scheduled toward the end of October. This will allow for more collaborative information gathering by teachers and parents. The scheduling of conferences at this time not only allows an opportunity for schools and students to improve in their efforts, but also provides opportunities for parents and teachers to collaborate by sharing insights into the needs of each child.

These changes will take place for the 2016-2017 school year. Additional communication from your local Catholic school to assist students and parents in this transition will be forth coming.

May we continue to journey together giving the students of the Diocese of Allentown an excellent academic education that integrates the knowledge and practice of the Faith, instilling in our students a lifelong commitment to learning and to Catholic values. This will prepare our students to take their place in the world as men and women of Faith, Service and Leadership.

Respectfully,

Sister Anita P. Gallagher, IHM  
Assistant Superintendent for the Diocese of Allentown