



DIOCESE OF COVINGTON
Department of Catholic Schools

July 24, 2020

Dear Families,

For the past two years the Department of Catholic Schools, along with our high school principals and guidance counselors, have been analyzing and evaluating local, regional and national data surrounding grading scales and their overall impact on student success. As a result, it has been decided that beginning August 1, 2020, all nine Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Covington will be adopting an identical 10-point grading scale for all grade levels – nine through twelve.

A 10-point grading scale is often referred to as the “college scale.” Annually, 94% of our graduating seniors matriculate to postsecondary education. While maintaining our academic rigor, we determined it was sensible to align our students’ assessment grades with that of colleges and universities. This will help and prepare the students more as they acclimate to college.

In addition, most of the other school districts in Kentucky currently utilize the 10-point scale, putting our Catholic high school students at a disadvantage during the college and scholarship application process due to a stricter grading scale and subsequent student grade point averages. Also, our new scale will be more aligned with the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship’s (KEES) www.kheaa.com 10-point scale which presents our students a better opportunity to receive a higher amount of scholarship money through the KEES program.

Below is the new overall scale. Please refer to your high school’s handbook for more details such as weighted scales for Honors, Advanced Placement and Dual Credit classes.

A	93	100
A-	90	92
B+	87	89
B	83	86
B-	80	82
C+	77	79
C	73	76
C-	70	72
D+	67	69
D	63	66
D-	60	62
F	59-Below	

An additional decision resulting from the meetings and considerations is the implementation of a Latin Honors Level of Distinction for graduating seniors in all of our Catholic high schools beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. This is similar to how some colleges and universities recognize levels of academic distinction, and it empowers our schools to honor a higher percentage of academically high-achieving students. As we move to the Latin honors, the 2020-2021 school year will be the last one for a designated valedictorian and salutatorian.

Using a weighted grade point average after seven semesters, beginning with the Class of 2021, seniors can now be recognized at the conclusion of their senior year as:

Summa Cum Laude (With Highest Honor) – 4.00 GPA or above;

Magna Cum Laude (With Great Honor) – 3.75 – 3.99 GPA;

Cum Laude (With Honor) – 3.50 – 3.74 GPA.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our high school principals and guidance counselors for their effort and insight with the decisions. On many levels, these new changes will better reward, commend, and demonstrate the commitment, attentiveness, and determination of our Catholic high school students.

Yours in Catholic education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Clines". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "C".

Michael Clines
Superintendent of Schools