

New Report Cards Parent Information

Diocese of Allentown
2016-2017

Why new report cards?

1. Why did we change the report cards?

- Change in PA Standards and the Diocesan Curriculum

2. Why did that change?

- Because of what our students will need in order to be successful learners in secondary school, college and in the workplace
- **This would have an effect on:**
 - IOWA, PSAT, SAT, ACT testing, along with local assessments
on high school expectations

What was the process?

- **Researched and field tested**

A committee of teachers and administrators was formed in October of 2014

- Researched a variety of report cards
- Spoke with professionals at the diocesan, university, and school districts levels

Process

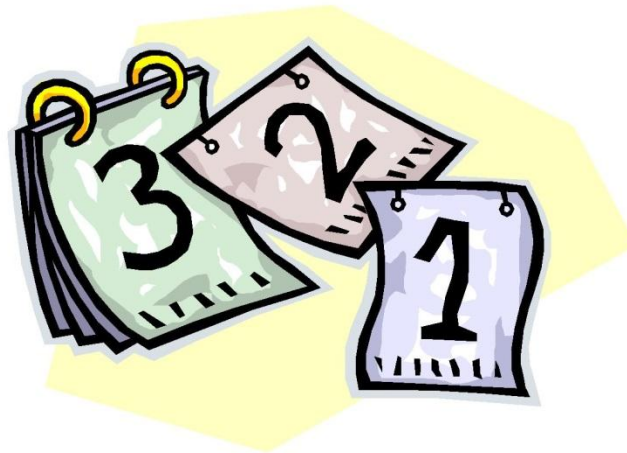
- The committee worked together as a team as well as in separate grade level groups

Why Trimesters?

- Research was done
- Other school districts and diocese schools were polled on their experiences with trimesters
- Principals were presented with the information
- Feedback was positive
- We moved forward

What are Trimesters?

- Three semesters instead of four semesters
- Each trimester is 12 weeks in length
- Extending the instructional and assessment period from 45 to 60 days



What are the benefits of Trimesters?

1. Research shows trimester grading periods are more developmentally appropriate for elementary and middle school students
2. Trimesters give teachers more time to assess and gather the data.
3. Second and third quarters were notoriously too short due to days off and weather concerns
4. Additional time allows for a better understanding of students' learning styles
5. Conferences are held earlier in the year which allows time for teacher /parent collaboration and implementation of strategies

2016-2017 Timeline

First Trimester

- August 29 First Trimester Begins
- Week of October 9 Progress Reports Issued
- **End of October - Parent Conferences**
- November 22 Trimester Ends
- December 5 First Trimester Report Card Issued

2016-2017 Timeline

Second Trimester

- November 29 Second Trimester Begins
- Week of January 15 Progress Reports Issued

***Parent Conferences as requested**

- March 8 Trimester Ends
- March 15 Second Trimester Report Cards Issued

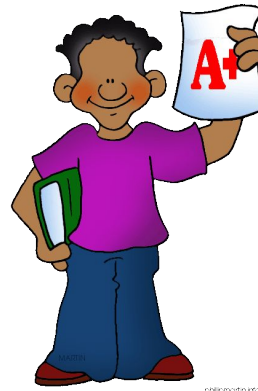
2016-2017 Timeline

Third Trimester

- March 9 Third Trimester Begins
 - *Cogat testing March 15-17
 - *IOWA testing March 27-31
- Week of April 17 Progress Reports
 - ***Parent Conferences as requested**
- June - Closing Exercises

Assessments

- The Diocesan guidelines require a minimum of 5 major grades per subject each trimester.
 - Details about assessments will be explained by the school/homeroom teachers.



shutterstock.com

Assessments

- Instead of mid-term exams, trimester assessments will occur at the end of each trimester.
- End-of-year exams in each content area will assess the important concepts students should know and have already been assessed during the year.

We are all on a journey.
SCHOOL is not a parking lot,
it is a meeting place along
the way. POPE FRANCIS

