April 7, 2020  
*Tuesday of Holy Week*  
*Feast of Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle*

**From:** David Dean, Superintendent  
**To:** Principals, Faculty and all Parents of Catholic Schools Students in the Diocese of Tulsa  
**Re:** Transition from Letter Grades to Pass/Fail for Fourth Quarter

**MEMORANDUM**

I hope this memo finds you well. Thank you for your patience as we worked toward consensus on how to assess and grade your children in this final quarter of the school year while engaged in temporary distance learning. While it is important to maintain a measure of continuity, we do not believe that traditional grading practices are appropriate in the current environment in which we live and work. Therefore, the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma Catholic elementary schools (PreK-8th grades) will adopt a pass/fail grading model for the last quarter of the current school year. Our distance learning models vary from school to school. Moving to this grading practice will allow us more flexibility that reflects the differing models we have in our respective schools.

For most of us, distance learning is a new and challenging experience. While the move to a pass/fail model may reduce academic stress, we hope that you, as parents and guardians, the first teachers of your children, will continue to encourage and assist your children in the completion of their assignments. Additionally, this will alleviate some burden from our teachers, who are also learning how to effectively instruct your children from a distance and evaluate the work that is assigned. The final grade will be primarily an average of the first three quarters and a satisfactory completion of distance learning assignments.

One exception to this policy is 8th grade Algebra I. Most high schools require a letter grade for high school credit, so only those teachers will give a letter grade for the fourth quarter.

Again, we ask for your continued hope and prayers to bring an end to this pandemic. We ask you to also offer prayers for those afflicted with COVID-19, those who may be afflicted in the future, all healthcare and essential workers, and for the most vulnerable in our community. Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, patron of teachers, pray for us. May the blessings of the Lord be with you and your family during this Holy Week and always.

End of Memorandum