



Sept. 18, 2020

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this communication is to explain the grading structure you can expect at St. Isidore Catholic Curriculum.

A student's progress at St. Isidore will be communicated and documented using a narrative grading report which will be compiled by commentary on academic standards about a students' progress. A reminder that narrative grading differs from a traditional grading approach in that it is focused specifically on a student's progress towards a specific standard. On these reports, you will see narrative commentary rather than traditional letter grades. This is further explained in our FAQs below.

Here is an example of what this narrative grading will look like. For reference, this is for a 1st grade student:

Report Card		
01 LIT-1	01 Literacy	Comment
Comprehension	Use pictures, illustrations, and detail in a story to describe characters, events, or settings.	Joey can describe the events in a story with characters, but hasn't yet understood setting.
Reading	Read at least 50 very high frequency words by sight	Joey is up to reading 20 of 50 sight words. Keep practicing!
Grammar	Observe conventions of capitalization: capitalize names, places and dates.	Joey always capitalizes name and date, but we haven't yet covered capitalizing places.
	Use end punctuation for sentences, including periods, questions marks, and exclamation points.	Great work with periods and exclamation points. Practice writing question marks.
Writing	Write opinions in which they introduce the topic or the name of the book they are writing about, state an opinion, and provide a reason for their opinion.	We have not yet covered this standard this quarter.
01 MAT-1	01 Math	
Number Sense	1. Skip count to 120 by 2, 5, and 10.	Mastered skip counting by 5s and 10s up to 120! Joey is skip counting by 2s to 60, but not yet 120.
	3. Recognize, read, and write numbers from 0 to 100.	Joey has mastered this standard.
	4. Locate and order whole numbers with and without a number line from 0 to 100.	Joey has mastered this standard.
	5. Estimate a number's location on a number line up to 100.	We have not yet covered this standard this quarter.
	6. Compare quantities or groups of objects as "more than, less than, equal to" using symbols (>, <, =)	We have not yet covered this standard this quarter.
Addition and Subtraction	1. Use concrete objects, length-based models, and number lines to illustrate addition and subtraction.	Joey is doing a great job understanding that addition is combining two groups of objects. He is still using fingers to count, so work on memorizing addition facts.

When will I receive this report?

These reports will be updated every other week on Mondays by 5pm. At the end of the quarter, a final quarter narrative report will be published.

Why does the top of the narrative report say “Report Card”?

The title report card is simply a limitation of how we can process these reports from FACTS. We’d encourage you to consider these progress reports rather than report cards, as they will be published every two weeks to give you progress of student understanding.

Does this narrative grading go on my student’s record?

Each quarter, an end of quarter narrative will be published. Should a student be returning to in-person learning at the end of the quarter, this narrative report will follow the student back to the local level school so the receiving classroom teacher has a record of the student’s progress. This report will also be placed in a student’s cumulative folder at the local level school.

Will the narratives become a letter grade like A, B, C, D, or F?

No. Narrative grading means we don’t use letter grades at St. Isidore. Why? Because the goal of St. Isidore is to support parents and local level schools in the formation of students. A narrative grade helps give a more nuanced and full picture of student understanding of a content area, instead of a simple letter grade such as Math: C which does not account for a student’s standard-level understanding. If a student receives a C in math, it’s not always clear what exactly the student does not yet understand. Narrative grading using the standards helps parents and the receiving local-level teacher (upon matriculation back to the classroom) understand each student’s understanding of specific standards.

If you have a student in 8th grade, and at the end of Quarter 2 and Quarter 4, we will work with content teachers and tutors to publish a letter grade for each 8th grader in each content area. The goal is to facilitate an easier application to high school.

Why are some of the standards not covered in the narrative report?

You may receive a comment that the standard has not yet been covered (see example above). Because you will receive progress reports every other week throughout the quarter, your child’s teachers simply may not have *yet* covered a certain standard in class. By the end of the quarter though, all the standards on the progress report should have commentary on your student’s progress. Quarters end October 16, 2020, December 18, 2020, March 5, 2021, and June 4, 2021.

My child isn’t mastering every standard. Are they behind?

No! Children develop at different paces, and we all come to understanding at different paces. Some standards also build over the course of the year – the teacher may practice this standard all year long, and we wouldn’t expect mastery until the end of the school year. If you see a standard that you want your child to progress more in, we encourage you to reach out to the SICC team so we can give you resources for how you might help support your child more at home with practice, books, or other resources.

Who is writing the comments on my child’s understanding of the standards?

Tutors write the comments for the narrative grade based on what the tutors are seeing in tutoring sessions as they review standards with their tutoring group. Tutors also have access to weekly quiz data from each of the student’s content classes and can use that data to help inform or reinforce their understanding of the student’s understanding of the standard.

How are teachers and tutors working together to inform this process?

Teachers and tutors will be sharing lessons, resources, and data to provide the most comprehensive picture of student progress we can glean. As teachers create our course content, tutors will use this as the basis to inform their small group instruction reinforcing concepts, enriching understanding, and providing opportunities for reteaching and in some cases, extension.

What exactly is graded in St. Isidore?

Narrative grading is based on the tutor's evaluation of student progress, as evidenced during tutoring time. Assignments submitted in the LMS are graded for completion. Quizzes taken within the LMS are not counted toward an average of a grade for a student, rather, the quizzes in the LMS are only used to help the content teacher to know to what extent students are understanding material in order to inform future instruction.

Are daily assignments graded? Do daily assignments count toward the narrative grade?

Each content teacher chooses one assignment per week to count as the completion work for that week. The content teachers are choosing this assignment because it is the assignment they feel is most representative of student understanding of a particular standard. The tutors can look at these assignments to get a sense of student understanding, but tutor commentary is coming largely from what they are seeing working with students in real-time during the small group tutoring block. Teachers will use the completed assignments to inform their instruction and make adjustments to their teaching as needed based on student understanding. As time progresses, we may adapt this process.

As a reminder, here's a tutorial to learn how to turn in assignments in the FACTS LMS.

<https://www.loom.com/share/c74ecb1652f545968aa4d01aa666f70c>

How do I help my student know what assignments in the LMS to submit?

If you are starting from the homepage of the LMS, click on the course title of the course for which you want to submit an assignment. Then, click on the right to the date when the assignment is due. Then click on the assignment title itself. Assignments always have this picture next to them.



How can I best hold my child accountable to completing work?

Please make sure your child watches all video lessons each day, and is completing the assignments each day. Your student should be submitting all assignments with the directions above. Your child should also be completing a weekly quiz.

To check that your student has all assignments completed, log in to the Parent Portal and use the Gradebook to check that assignments are completed. (It may be that your child submitted the assignment but the teacher has not yet entered it into the gradebook, given that our teachers only work a certain number of hours each week and do their best to be timely in grading. If you don't see the assignment inputted after more than a week though, please reach out to your child's teacher.)

Quizzes in FACTS are auto-graded which means that you will be able to see the quiz completed in the Parent Portal Gradebook immediately after the quiz is submitted.

How are the weekly quizzes graded?

Weekly quizzes are auto graded in FACTS LMS. The teachers use this data to inform their instruction and make adjustments to their teaching as needed based on student understanding. The tutors are able to see the quiz data which gives them more information about student understanding, which they can then use in their narrative comments.

If you or your child don't understand how to take a quiz, please watch this tutorial:

<https://www.loom.com/share/c4cdba434d884fdab09df7110aa17a15>

Quizzes are always marked with this symbol next to them in the LMS.



When can I expect to see these progress reports?

Progress reports will be published every other week on Mondays by 5pm beginning Monday Sept. 21.

Where can I see the progress reports and the gradebook?

You will only be able to view progress reports in the FACTS Parent Portal. If you haven't yet set up your Parent Portal, please go to <https://factsmgt.com/> then click "Parent Log In" then click "FACTS Family Portal". Then click "Create New Family Portal Account" Simply sign up using the email address you used to register your student in St. Isidore and district code si-co then check your email for further instructions. If you have set up your family portal but cannot remember your password, simply click "Forgot username/password" and an email can be sent to your email address to have it reset. If you need more assistance, please email stisidoresupport@archden.org (please be specific in your request, and include your name and your child's name and grade in your email to St. Isidore Support so that we can assist you quickly).

When you into the Family Portal, click on the 'Student' tab on the left side of the page and then the 'Report Card' tab. This "Report Card" is the narrative grade report. If you have more than one student in the school, you can easily toggle between all the reports cards using the dropdown feature at the top of the page.

To see the Gradebook grades on the Family Portal, click on the 'Students' tab and then the 'Grade' tab. You will be able to toggle between your students as well as the various classes those students are enrolled in.

Please keep us aware of any questions you have and let us know how we can best support you in supporting your students.

God bless you and your family,

Dr. Carla Dire Capstick, Organizational Leader

Mrs. Sarah Grey, Assistant Organizational Leader

Mrs Kristen Lanier, Assistant Organizational Leader