

CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS



DIocese OF GRAND RAPIDS

March 19, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Catholic Secondary Schools of Greater Grand Rapids are very proud of the academic success of their students. Our goal has always been to educate our students to the best of their ability in the Catholic tradition.

Our students continue to meet and exceed expectations based on the highest of standards.

In November 2008, a group of parents presented a concern to the Catholic Secondary Schools' Education Committee. The concern presented was that Catholic Secondary School students were not being assessed on an equal basis when compared to other college applicants whose schools were using a more liberal grading scale.

After reviewing the parents' concerns, educators at both Catholic Central and West Catholic researched data dating back several years regarding GPA, class rank, and correlating standardized test scores. That research included information from the counselors at both high schools after contacting numerous college and university admissions representatives.

Considering all information, the Education Committee recommended to the full Board that the current grading scale, which has been in effect for 30-plus years, remain unchanged. The full Board supported that recommendation at its December 2008 meeting. In addition, the Board recommended that as soon as technologically possible the student percentages be added to the transcripts for admission and scholarship consideration if applicable. These percentages would appear alongside the letter grades on the student's transcript. The task of implementing that recommendation is currently in progress.

In a time when our society is challenging schools to raise educational standards across the country it is our belief that we should not be looking at lowering ours. It has been and will continue to be a tradition of West Catholic and Catholic Central to maintain the highest of academic standards that sets us apart from other schools and gives our students the greatest opportunity for success beyond high school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Louis Stasker'.

Reverend R. Louis Stasker
Pastor-President
Catholic Secondary Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Spetoskey'.

Stan Spetoskey
Principal
West Catholic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Passinault'.

Steve Passinault
Principal
Catholic Central