



THOMAS | GREENBRIER | IVY HILL | OLIVE | PATTON  
SOUTH | DRYDEN | WESTGATE | WINDSOR

September 13, 2023

Dear Arlington Heights School District 25 Families:

As you may know, District 25 implemented [standards-based grading](#) in our elementary schools in 2018, changing the way our teachers reported student learning on their report cards. In that same year, a committee of our middle school staff began exploring the possible implementation of standards-based instruction and grading for Thomas and South students, but the pandemic interrupted their work.

This past year, the middle school committee reconvened, again looking at the possibility of standards-based instruction and grading for our middle schoolers.

While the committee will continue its work this year on the instructional side of standards-based work, we have decided that we will NOT switch to standards-based reporting for our middle school students for the current school year nor for the 2024-2025 school year. Therefore, middle school report cards will continue to be based on a traditional system of letter grades. The committee may revisit this in the future, but there is still much work to do before implementing that aspect of this work.

Throughout this school year, the committee will continue to review current research and determine how to improve student and parent understanding of student performance while also increasing our teachers' knowledge of their students' strengths and areas of needed growth on the Illinois Learning Standards. Teachers and staff will collaborate throughout the school year to explore and apply instructional strategies that best support our students' learning.

We are extremely appreciative of the detailed work this committee is doing, and their dedication to increasing our home-school communication about our students' achievement.

Teachers and staff look forward to meeting with families at our October Parent/Teacher Conferences to share the progress of each student's learning so far this year, and we will continue to update you on District 25's work in this area.

Sincerely,

Dr. Becky FitzPatrick  
Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning

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Amanda Czerniuk  
Assessment Coordinator