



St. Mary's Elementary School

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Bonnie Hunley – Principal

Alternatives to Zero Policy 2018-19

Marks/grades will be used to report assessment of students' achievement aligned to the Alberta curriculum goals and objectives. Marks/grades will not be used for the purposes of punishment, rewards, motivation, or to teach responsibility.

In primary grades, an alternate grading scale is used (1 to 4 scale as opposed to percentages), therefore “zero” does not apply in the primary grades as a potential mark.

Assessments may include but are not limited to: quizzes, tests, checklists, rubrics, inventories, diagnostic tools, standardized assessments, performance tasks, observations, anecdotal notes, projects, self-assessments, presentations, common assessments, and portfolios. Teachers are encouraged to choose the best possible means of allowing a student to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, and to use a differentiated assessment when appropriate.

Awarding a zero on an assignment, test, or course is generally not an option, and would only happen if every possible avenue has been attempted. A variety of strategies and supports are always used to prevent a zero. These strategies include:

- Time and support to complete incomplete tasks and assignments
- Incomplete assigned if a student is absent for a significant time period
- Re-teaching of concepts that were missed or not grasped satisfactorily
- Opportunities to demonstrate understanding when the student has had an opportunity to practice (or re-learn) new knowledge or skills
- Opportunities to retake missed exams, quizzes
- Individualized/small group instruction, to maximize students' opportunities for success
- Differentiated Instruction
- Assessment for learning, assessment as learning
- Involvement with alternate and/or additional programming as necessary (including; modified curriculum expectations for learning disabled students, additional learning support in and outside of the classroom, mental health therapy, child circle involvement, OT/PT, RCSD, speech/language assistance, behavior plans, Success Team)

