

Dear Parents:

Over the past year, our school has engaged in a study of teen emotional health. Through surveys, a review of studies and books, and anecdotal data, it has been brought to our attention that real-time grade notifications can be distracting and harmful to students.

In a recent survey, 84% of student respondents at Mercy said that their anxiety increased when they received a grade notification on their iPad. Anecdotally, students tell us that text messages and emails about grades can take their focus away from the learning process.

While this may not apply to the entire student body, it is a serious concern for us, and we are taking the proactive step to stop this practice. Today grade notifications will be turned off for students and parents in an effort to establish healthy limits on grade scrutiny.

This change will in no way impact your access to your daughter's grades. Parents will always be able to log into PowerSchool, and will continue to receive the weekly Friday progress reports. We encourage you to set up a focused and limited time each week to check grades and progress with your daughter.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Best,

Academic Council

Lauren Conklin, Assistant Head of School for Academics

Department Chairs: Sarah Boragno, Andrea Cabano, Kirk Demlinger, Nazira Kury-Arnold, Jen Lambdin, Ryan McGoron, Carolina Orantes, and Angie Simonetti