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Dr. David Baker – Superintendent
Mr. Clint Gazette – K-12 Principal Dr. Samm Ravens – Curriculum Director

Dear Cardinal Families,

In the coming days and weeks, you may see information about Missouri's new A–F school grading system for public schools. We want you to hear directly from us about what this system means and how it fits into the broader picture of school accountability in Missouri.

Understanding the Pilot Grading System

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is developing a statewide A–F grading system following an executive order signed by Governor Mike Kehoe in January.

There are three important things for our families to understand:

- **Every district and school building will receive a single letter grade.**
- **This system does not replace the existing Annual Performance Report (APR)..**
- **The grading system relies almost exclusively on standardized test scores.**

Because this is a new pilot system, we anticipate that the state's approach may evolve as DESE evaluates and refines the methodology. We will continue to review the information provided by the state and consider what it tells us about student learning and opportunities for improvement.

Our Commitment to Cardinal Families

At Niangua R-V, our responsibility is to provide every student with the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. We take student achievement seriously, and we remain committed to evaluating our progress, identifying areas for improvement, and making decisions that support student learning.

We also recognize that a school's success cannot be fully represented by a single letter grade. Academic growth, the quality of instruction, relationships between students and staff, extracurricular opportunities, and the support provided to families all contribute to the educational experience we want for our students.

Standardized assessments are one source of information, but they are not the only measure of the work taking place in our classrooms or the progress individual students make throughout the school year.

Where We Go From Here

We will continue using available assessment data, classroom performance, and other measures of student progress to guide instructional decisions and strengthen educational opportunities throughout the district. We will also continue communicating with families about our priorities and the steps we are taking to support student achievement.

No state rating can replace the knowledge you have of your own child. You see their growth, understand their strengths, and know the hopes you have for their future. Our responsibility is to partner with you, support your child's individual needs, and work together toward those goals.

Niangua R-V serves students with different strengths, needs, experiences, and starting points. We remain committed to helping every Cardinal reach their potential, being transparent about our progress, and continually working to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and partnership. It is a privilege to serve the students and families of the Niangua community.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Baker, Superintendent
Niangua R-V School District