



POLICY

**Haddonfield
Board of Education**

STUDENTS

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Student Recognition – Cum Laude

5432 STUDENT RECOGNITION – CUM LAUDE

The Board acknowledges the usefulness of a system of computing grade point averages and class ranking for secondary school graduates to inform students, parents/guardians and others of their relative academic placement among their peers under relatively similar circumstances. The Board recognizes, however, that the reporting of class rank can have unintended, and unhealthy, consequences. Thus, the Board seeks to balance the need for a system of class ranking with a system that relieves student pressures and unhealthy competition and allows for flexibility in scheduling.

In recognition of the heavier burden of work for certain courses, they will receive a higher weighted grade point value.

The Board hereby establishes the parameters of a class ranking system, as follows:

1. A student's weighted grade point averages shall be entered on his/her record and shall be subject to the Board's policy on release of student records.
2. The district shall not report student class rank publicly. Student transcripts will NOT report class rank.
3. The district shall maintain a weighted grade point average for all students and will maintain a class rank order. However, the district shall only report a student's individual class rank position directly to postsecondary institutions or other entities, which have a legitimate reason to request such information.
4. Unweighted numeric grades shall be reported on a student's report card and/or transcripts. In recognition of the rigor of studies in higher levels of courses provided by the district, the numeric grades shall be weighted when calculating GPAs only. For unweighted courses, the final grade IS the grade for that course. For students who are taking accelerated courses, 8 (eight) points are added to the final grade. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year and thereafter, students taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses without taking the AP exam, 10 (ten) points are added to their final grade when calculating GPAs. Finally, again starting in 2021-22, students who take AP courses with the AP exam, 12 (twelve) points are added to their final grade. Weights are only added when calculating the GPA.
5. The district shall provide a weighted grade point average on student transcripts.
6. The district shall not recognize the honorary distinctions of valedictorian or salutatorian after the graduation of the Class of 2022 and thereafter. The district shall institute a Latin, collegiate style, honors system beginning with the class of 2023 and after. Such a system shall recognize all



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students with weighted GPAs in the 1st thru 5th percentiles of their class, as summa cum laude, all students with weighted GPAs between 6th and 10th percentiles of their class, as magna cum laude, and all students with weighted GPAs between the 11th and 20th percentiles of their class, as cum laude.

It shall be the responsibility of the high school principal to select student speakers for the graduation ceremony. Students who have achieved the status of summa cum laude will be eligible to speak at graduation. The high school shall establish a graduation speaker selection panel comprised of professional staff (teachers, counselors, and administration) and students for the express purpose of selecting two student speakers for graduation. Students wishing to speak are to submit written speeches. The high school panels will develop a common rubric and protocol to be used for the selection of the speakers. Recommendation for speakers made by the panel shall be final.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the computation of grade point averages, the assignment of rank in class, and the timeframe of informing students of this recognition to implement this policy.

BOE Revised Date: 12/12/2019
BOE Approval Date: 1/30/2020