

**Valedictorian and  
Salutatorian**

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest- and second-highest class rank, respectively. To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, a student must have attended a District high school his or her entire junior and senior year and must have completed the requirements for the Recommended Program, the foundation program with an endorsement, the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, or the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program [see EIF].

**Beginning with  
Grade 9 in the  
2014–15 School Year**

Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, the valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest- and second-highest class rank, respectively.

To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, a student must have been enrolled in a District high school all four semesters of his or her last two years of high school. Enrollment must have commenced no later than the end of the first 15 school days of the first semester of the student's junior year, until graduation.

An early graduate (a student graduating in less than four years) shall be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian honors.

**Breaking a Tie**

In case of a tie for the highest weighted grade point average (GPA), tying students shall be declared coaledictorians, and a salutatorian shall not be recognized.

The recipient of the scholarships awarded to the valedictorian shall be determined according to the following methods in the following order:

1. The weighted grade average shall be computed to the fifth decimal place until the tie is broken.
2. However, if a tie still remains, the student with the highest numerical grade average of all Pre-AP and AP courses shall receive the scholarships awarded to the valedictorian.
3. The tying student who scored higher on the National Merit Scholarship exam, or similar comprehensive achievement test so designated as a standard by the principal, shall receive the scholarships awarded to the valedictorian.

**Calculation of Class  
Rank**

For students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2014–15 school year, class rank shall be based on weighted GPAs of all courses completed in grades 9–12 and in any high school courses taken in grades 7 and 8 for state graduation credit. Grades earned in band, choir, physical education, yearbook, lab management, dance, keyboarding, PALS, leadership, theater production, audited courses,

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
CLASS RANKING

EIC  
(LOCAL)

local credit courses, credit by examination, and correspondence courses shall not be included in the calculation of class rank.

Beginning with Students Who Entered Grade 9 in the 2014–15 School Year

Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year, class rank shall be based on weighted GPAs of all courses completed in grades 9–12 and in any high school courses taken in grades 7 and 8 for state graduation credit. The calculation of class rank shall also include grades earned in eligible subjects through state-approved correspondence, dual credit, and distance learning courses. These grades shall be weighted in accordance with this policy.

Grades earned in band, choir, physical education, yearbook, lab management, dance, keyboarding, PALS, leadership, theater production, audited courses, local credit courses, and credit by examination shall not be included in the calculation of class rank.

Weighted Grade Point Averages

Grade weights shall be used for computing weighted GPAs for class rank purposes only.

The objectives of the delineated methods of weighted GPA are as follows:

1. To emphasize an academic foundation for students, stressing courses recognized by colleges and universities;
2. To correlate academic performance and class rank;
3. To distinguish advanced course credit from regular course credit; and
4. To communicate to colleges and universities accurate class rank of students.

For students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2014–15 school year, grades shall be weighted as follows:

Grade	Regular	Dual Credit, Math/Science, Decathlon, Pre-AP, and Adv Math	All AP Courses / Math/Science (Senior year only)
100	4.0	5.0	5.5
95	3.5	4.5	5.0
90	3.0	4.0	4.5
85	2.5	3.5	4.0
80	2.0	3.0	3.5

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Grade	Regular	Dual Credit, Math/Science, Decathlon, Pre-AP, and Adv Math	All AP Courses / Math/Science (Senior year only)
75	1.5	2.5	3.0
70	1.0	2.0	2.5

Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, the following grade points shall be assigned to the grades earned according to the following scale:

Grade	Level I	Level II	Level III
100	4.0	5.0	5.5
95	3.5	4.5	5.0
90	3.0	4.0	4.5
85	2.5	3.5	4.0
80	2.0	3.0	3.5
75	1.5	2.5	3.0
70	1.0	2.0	2.5

The list of courses available at each level shall be found in the student handbook and academic guide.

**Transfer Students**

A student who transfers into the District high school with higher-level course credits shall receive similar credits counted toward the GPA according to the list of higher-level courses offered in the District and the grade point scale used for credit earned in the District.