

ACADEMICS

CLASS RANK

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

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WEIGHTING OF GRADES

CLASS RANK

Class rank is defined as a numerical calculation of a student's scholastic achievement in relation to that of his/her classmates. Students are ranked from highest to lowest according to a student's cumulative weighted Quality Point Average (Q.P.A.). All courses taken from the beginning of Grade 9 to the end of the current term are included. Q.P.A. is listed as two numerals. For example, 383/650 indicates that the student ranks 383rd from the top in a class of 650 students. A student's class rank is listed on the report card at the end of the school year.

Class rank is not listed on student transcripts unless specifically requested in writing by the parent or student. No class rank information will be released to colleges or other institutions without parent or student request/permission.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Requirements for admission to college usually go far beyond the minimum requirements for high school graduation. College-bound students should consult catalogs of colleges in which they are interested to be sure that they are selecting the right courses. Many colleges expect students to schedule at least two consecutive years of a world language at the high school level. Highly selective colleges often require serious applicants to take more challenging courses (Advanced Placement and Honors) whenever possible. Students with questions or concerns about course requirements for college should contact their counselor.

PHASING OF COURSES

In the academic course areas of English, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics, courses are phased according to difficulty and complexity of skills and content. Phasing indicates the level of sophistication in a particular course. Students and parents should read phasing definitions carefully to assist in making the most appropriate selection of courses. A student may qualify for a Phase IV course in one area but be in a Phase II course in another. Course descriptions list phases when appropriate.

PHASE I

Phase I courses emphasize the basic skills of the subject. These courses provide practice in learning and applying the basic skills. Teacher and counselor recommendations are required for Phase I courses. The IMPACT Program at the Intermediate High School and the Essentials of English and Fundamentals of Democracy courses at the Senior High School are examples of Phase I courses.

PHASE II

Phase II courses place emphasis on the continued application of basic skills in a subject area. Students should select this level if they have average academic ability but need more time for reviewing, practicing, and applying skills. Basic English classes at the Intermediate High School and Litera-

ture 3/Writing 3 classes at the Senior High School are examples of Phase II courses.

PHASE III

Phase III courses are designed for students who are college-bound or those who have better than average ability and a command of basic skills. Higher level thinking skills are emphasized. English 1 and 2 at the Intermediate High School and American Literature/Composition 3 at the Senior High School are examples of Phase III courses.

PHASE IV

Phase IV courses are the most challenging ones in each subject area. Critical-thinking, writing, and research skills are emphasized and material is covered at a rapid pace. Strict prerequisites are required for Phase IV courses. Honors courses and Advanced Placement courses are examples of Phase IV courses.

CRITERIA FOR WEIGHTING HONORS COURSES

The following criteria is used to determine if a course is designated as an honors level course. Meeting several of these criteria does not ensure such designation, nor is the list all-inclusive. However, addressing each course's specific adaptations to the criteria is considered critical. Each course is evaluated on its individual merits by members of the appropriate department and the Department Chairperson, the Curriculum Senate, the Secondary Support Team, and the Assistant Superintendent. Final recommendations are submitted to the Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of School Directors for approval.

1. Honors level courses must have distinct features in terms of extended content and additional workload, which set them apart from regular high school courses in the same subject.
2. Honors level courses must have appropriate prerequisites for admission.
3. Honors level courses are for students possessing a high degree of proficiency prior to enrollment in the class. Factors to be considered include: previous course work, grades, Q.P.A., class rank, achievement test scores, prognostic tests, and/or teacher recommendation.
4. Honors level courses are taught at an accelerated pace. Students are expected to function and being evaluated at higher cognitive levels.
5. Honors level courses require students to demonstrate advanced communication skills.
6. An honors course may have the same name as another course in the subject area; however, it is a more comprehensive, in-depth study of the subject matter. It is more rigorous and challenging than a course with a similar title.
7. Honors level courses are primarily designed for and geared to address the abilities and needs of Phase 4 and/or advanced students.

8. Honors level courses are part of an accelerated/ advanced program.
9. Honors level course content is designed to enable students to perform better on achievement or placement tests, but not specifically on Advanced Placement examinations.
10. Honors level courses must have a comprehensive final student evaluation.

WEIGHTING OF GRADES

Grades used for the QPA formula:

At mid-year, SEMESTER grades are used for full-year courses and FINAL grades are used for 1st semester classes. At the end of the year only FINAL grades are used for both semester and full-year courses.

"Earned Credits" - credit value of each course adjusted by half for full year courses at mid-year, or the actual earned credits for each completed course

Grade points - where A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, E=0

Quality Points = Grade points x "Earned Credits"

AP Factor = .25

Honor Factor = .125

AP/Honors Weight = ("Earned Credits" X Appropriate Factor) / # semesters completed

Current Year QPA - Includes ONLY courses taken during the current school year

Cumulative QPA - Includes all qualified courses in grades 9 through 12

Overall QPA - includes all courses

Academic QPA - includes academic courses only - English, Math, Social Studies, Science and World Language

QPA for Ranking = (TOTAL QUALITY POINTS / TOTAL "EARNED CREDITS") + TOTAL AP/HONORS WEIGHT