

## **ACADEMICS**

### **COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL FOR THE HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP**

Most student/parent concerns can be resolved with a simple conversation with the teacher. Our belief is that all Cathedral High School teachers have professional and compassionate intentions toward the students; consequently, most issues can be easily resolved with open communication.

The following is the procedure to be followed for a fair and balanced approach to the resolution of student/parent concerns with a teacher.

#### **Steps to take:**

- The student should talk to the teacher about the issue.
- The parents should email or leave a voicemail message for the teacher. (Teachers check their emails and voicemails daily, thus this exchange can happen quickly.)
- The teacher and the student and/or parent should reach a resolution and, if necessary, develop a plan that will prevent the issue from arising again.
- If the teacher and the parent and/or the student cannot reach an amicable resolution, the student's counselor should be contacted by the teacher, student or the parent.
- If the teacher, parent, student, and /or counselor cannot reach a resolution, the appropriate curriculum director should be contacted by the parent, student or teacher.
- If the counselor, teacher, student/parent and curriculum director cannot reach a resolution, or if this is a recurring problem, the counselor, teacher, or parent should contact the vice principal for academic affairs' office, and a meeting will be arranged with all of the people involved.
- If the above process does not result in a resolution, then a meeting with the principal should be scheduled.

### **GRADES—DROPPED COURSES**

Dropping a course after September 11 of first semester or after February 5 of second semester will result in a "WF" (Withdrawal-Failure). Students dropping a class during this time frame will be placed in a resource (only one resource period is allowed per semester). Students who need to withdraw due to medical reasons will receive a "WM" (Withdrawal-Medical). These marks will be shown on the transcript. In addition, level change requests will be accepted and reviewed throughout the first semester and until the WF/WM drop date of second semester. After February 5, students will not be allowed to change class levels. Course fees are non-refundable after the official drop-add period has passed.

## **GRADE POINT AVERAGES (GPA)**

The GPA is computed by dividing the total grade points earned by the total number of credits taken to date. Grade point averages are calculated only at the semester. Transfer students' GPAs are calculated only on grades acquired at Cathedral High School.

## **GRADUATION RECOGNITION - AMENDED FALL OF 2017**

After much research, and in line with what most colleges and an increasing number of high schools are doing to recognize outstanding academic achievement, Cathedral High School has decided to implement a new program that will replace the traditional Valedictorian/Salutatorian model.

### **Summa Cum Laude/Magna Cum Laude/Cum Laude (starting with the graduation class of 2021)**

Starting with the Class of 2021, Valedictorian/Salutatorian will no longer be recognized. Instead, we will recognize the top 15% of the class as indicated below:

- Summa Cum Laude top 5% Highest academic recognition
- Magna Cum Laude next 5% Next highest academic recognition
- Cum Laude next 5% Final recognition

Students earning these distinctions will be recognized at Commencement. Students from the "Summa Cum Laude" category may apply for the various speaking roles at Commencement. To determine the students in each category, seventh-semester cumulative GPA's will be calculated. To be eligible for this academic recognition, a student must have attended Cathedral for at least five semesters at the time of graduation. Students will be able to take any level of required/elective class they choose, with the understanding that taking a non-honors class could decrease their chances of being recognized in the top 15%. The student also must have exhibited exemplary behavior in and out of the classroom.

## **CLASS RANK**

Cathedral High School does not rank its students. The only exception to this policy is when a release form is signed by parents choosing to have rank reported for their child's potential scholarships. In this way those students who need an exact rank to be reported to a scholarship agency, school, or private foundation will not lose out on possible scholarship dollars. This class rank information will be sent directly from Cathedral to the institution that has been approved by the student's parents. Class rank will not be released to students, parents, or anyone else requesting this information.

## GRADE POINT WEIGHTING

Students' grades will be weighted based on the following grade weighting scale.

Grade	Honors Points	Academic Points	College Prep
A	4.67	4.25	4.00
B+	4.00	3.58	3.33
B	3.67	3.25	3.00
C+	3.00	2.58	2.33
C	2.67	2.25	2.00
D+	2.00	1.58	1.33
D	1.67	1.25	1.00
F	0.00	0.00	0.00

## HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll and High Honor Roll will be determined by using a weighted grading scale. Students must carry at least 5.5 credits to be eligible.

High Honors—3.600 GPA

Honors—3.200 GPA

## INCOMPLETES

Students who receive an incomplete grade have two weeks to make up missing work. If the grade is not made up the grade will become an "F."

## POWERSCHOOL

Parents and students can track their academic progress online via this easy-to-use website via the Parent Portal on the Cathedral website.

## PROBATION/INSUFFICIENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS

As a college preparatory school, Cathedral High School requires satisfactory academic progress from students similar to that required by most colleges and universities throughout the nation. Therefore, at the end of each semester, students with two or more failing grades or a semester GPA of 2.0 or lower will be placed on Academic Probation and placed in an academic resource. Students and parents will meet with their counselor and set clear and attainable goals for the upcoming semester. Students who do not improve their academic performance may need to consider finding a more appropriate academic setting.

At the end of each quarter, students with a quarter GPA of less than 2.0 will be placed into an academic resource. Although it is understandable that students may experience a temporary decline or lack of success for many reasons, a continued failing trend not only jeopardizes

academic progress but it also puts the student's attitudes and self-esteem at risk. Although the Counselor will advise and collaborate with the parents and students, continued loss of credit will be reviewed by the vice principal for academic affairs to determine if students who have an unsuccessful academic record should be invited to return to Cathedral High School.

Failing grades are reflected on the student's transcript, as are the credit recovery grades. Students may not make up more than two credits in any one discipline outside of Cathedral High School.