



Improving College Acceptance, Strengthening Academic Culture and Expanding Opportunities for All Students



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As the Kingsway Regional School District (KRS D) continues to prepare its students for a seamless and successful transition to college, we will begin to implement adjustments to our grading scale, grade point average (GPA) calculations, and academic achievement recognition (i.e. class rank). Below provides a summary of adjustments intended to meet these goals. More in-depth information is on our website at www.krsd.org/ImprovingCollegeAcceptance.

GOALS

- To provide students a seamless transition to college through the use of common language and practices
- To maintain current rigor and high standards of excellence with a focus on student learning
- To improve the overall college admissions experience and outcomes for our students

WHY NOT PUBLISH CLASS RANK

Kingsway recognizes the importance of rigorous, challenging coursework, a diversified learning experience, and the personal and emotional growth of every student. As a result, Kingsway will no longer rank its students numerically from best to worst based on academic achievement. The removal of class rank does not negate our commitment to the values noted above, but rather affirms our belief that ranking students may be detrimental to their college admissions. Our rationale for moving away from this practice is below.

- The differences in GPA among high-achieving students are often statistically insignificant, placing our students at a disadvantage resulting in high achieving students often being overlooked for admission to colleges or for scholarship consideration due to their rank.
- Colleges have moved away from viewing class rank as a significant part of the application process as many high schools no longer rank their students.
- Many Kingsway students report elevated levels of anxiety and stress related to the positioning that occurs when calculating class rank.

*KRS D will continue to maintain class rank internally. Therefore, if ranking is required by an organization, students/parents may complete a waiver to request class rank.



REALIGNMENT OF GPA

Kingsway currently implements a 100-point grade point average (GPA) scale. When evaluating students for admission, many colleges look at GPA on a four-point scale. This transition will:

- Reduce confusion for students and families when applying to college and increase understanding of the 4.0 scale prior to entering college;
- Continue to provide added weight to Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) courses to reflect the course rigor; and
- Align with our adjustment to a 10-point grading scale

WHAT

- Shift to a 10-Point Grading Scale
- Move away from publishing class rank
- Implement 4.00 GPA Scale
- Maintain weighted grading for advanced courses
- Improve recognition of academic achievements through a Latin Honors Program

WHEN? WHO?

Effective September 1, 2020, for all incoming 7th – 12th graders

ac · cep · tance / ɪk'sep-təns, æk-/ 1: Answering the invitation of a lifetime. 2: The feeling of welcome you will experience as you step onto a college campus of your choosing.

SHIFT TO A 10-POINT GRADING SCALE

Kingsway will transition to a 10-point grading scale, implementing a plus and minus system (i.e. A+, A, A-, B+, B, B...). This transition will not lower classroom rigor or standards of achievement as the strength of curriculum and teacher instruction will remain the same. Instead, such a transition will:

- Improve chances of college admissions and increase scholarship opportunities
- Align with the traditional 10-point college/university grading scale
- Encourage more students to challenge themselves by taking advanced level courses

EXPANDING ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Moving away from class rank, more specifically no longer highlighting the Top 10 at graduation, does not devalue Kingsway's *Commitment to Excellence*. We recognize the hard work and determination of those who achieve at high levels academically. Our plan to incorporate a Latin Honors Program, one used by colleges and universities, would continue our celebration and recognition of these high-achieving students. This distinction would be recognized at graduation.

- **Summa Cum Laude** – Awarded to students who achieve a weighted GPA of 3.90 or higher
- **Magna Cum Laude** – Awarded to students who achieve a weighted GPA of 3.70 – 3.89
- **Cum Laude** – Awarded to Students who achieve a weighted GPA of 3.50 – 3.69