

## **HONOR STUDENT SELECTION**

### **LISTING AND CLASSIFICATION OF COURSES**

This procedure will become effective for the Graduating Class of 2020-2021

In order to provide for an equitable differentiation among students on the basis of their academic achievement, the guidelines herein shall prevail. The Board acknowledges and affirms that this policy does not address nor does it purport to address the issues of importance, time spent, or amount of work done in each of the various courses but is intended for the recognition of divergence in academic rigor that exists among such courses.

**For purposes of Honor student selection, the following procedures will be followed:**

- Beginning with the 9th grade year of high school, all students will be ranked on the scale calculated and weighted as listed herein. The student with the highest numerical grade point average (calculated and weighted on a 100-point scale) will be the class Valedictorian.
- The student with the second highest numerical grade point average will be the class Salutatorian.
- In calculating the numerical grade point average, all semester grades will be used. Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected based on complete, four-year (eight-term) transcripts. (Numerical average once all grades have been posted). Final ranking will be determined when grades are received and calculated from this time period.
- The grade point average will be carried out four decimal places and rounded.
- Valedictorian and Salutatorian must be students graduating with the most advanced academic diploma offered and must have been enrolled in the school system for a minimum of three, full academic semesters prior to the date of graduation.
- Any student with a 30 ACT or higher will be recognized as an honor student.
  - The student's highest ACT score, reported through the December administration of the student's 12th grade year, will be used to resolve any ties that occur in Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection.
- Any student ranked within the Top 5% of the graduating class will be recognized as an honor student (as determined in January using the completed, seven-term transcript). This number is limited to 5 percent of the graduating class (or a minimum of 5 students).

### **Pre-AP / Honors / Advanced / Accelerated, Advanced Placement Courses/Dual Enrollment Courses**

These classes must be labeled Pre-AP / Honors / Advanced / Accelerated, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment (only courses of English, Math, Science or Social Science will be calculated), or International Baccalaureate, and must be identified according to the Alabama State Department of Education's Subject and Personnel Codes. The courses are to be taught by appropriately trained Pre-AP/Honors/Advanced/Accelerated, Advanced Placement instructors, instructors that meet the standards for International Baccalaureate, certified accordingly by the State Department of Education or of the college offering the courses. College level text may be used. Students should be deemed eligible to take the College Board Exam.

Dual Enrollment Courses must have the approval of the school principal and Superintendent. In addition an articulation agreement must exist between the college offering the course and the school. All students should contact the local school before taking a college course that they wish to count as dual enrollment credit.

<b>Four-point Scale (Used for Collegiate Reporting)</b>			
Letter Grade	Dual Enrollment / Advanced Placement	Pre-AP / Honors / Advanced / Accelerated / Additional Courses as Identified below	Regular Class
A	5	4.5	4
B	4	3.5	3
C	3	2.5	2
D	2	1.5	1
F	0	0	0

<b>100-point Scale (Used for Honor Student Selection)</b>		
Dual Enrollment / Advanced Placement	Pre-AP / Honors / Advanced / Accelerated / Additional Courses as Identified below	Regular Class
+10	+5	+0

**Due to the rigor of the following courses, they will be weighted the same as Pre-AP/Honors/Advanced Courses.**

- o Algebra II with Trig (replaced by Advanced Algebra with Statistics, Fall 2021)
- o Pre-Calculus
- o Calculus (replaced by Calculus I, Fall 2021)
- o All Foreign Languages

**Courses taken in 8th grade that meet the requirements for a high school diploma will be awarded credit, but will not be used for Honor student selection.**