

# CLASS RANKINGS AND SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Beginning with the Class of 2009, Board of Education Policy (IKC) and Regulation (IKC-R) are in effect. Valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined by class rank using cumulative grade point averages. The valedictorian will be the student with the highest weighted grade point average. The salutatorian will be the student with the second highest weighted grade point average.

All co-valedictorians will be listed as first in the class rank, and all co-salutatorians will be listed as second in class rank. The next student will be listed as whatever number the person happens to be, considering the number of co-valedictorians and co-salutatorians (e.g., fifth in the class).

Both the valedictorian and salutatorian must be enrolled under a regular enrollment status in St. Mary's County Public Schools for the two consecutive semesters of the senior year preceding high school graduation.

Students must maintain full-time equivalent enrollment status.

Class rank shall be determined for students in grades 11 and 12.

Semester grades are used for the purpose of determining class rank. Class rank shall be calculated by dividing the quality points by the number of credits taken.

All courses that appear on the transcript that produced a letter grade of A, B, C, D, E, or F shall be included in the grade point average calculation.

Grade point values for the purpose of the calculations will be A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, E=0, and F=0.

Weighted grade point values are used for advanced placement and college level English, mathematics, science, social studies, and world language courses taken at a college or university. No remedial or pre-high school, or high school level courses taken at a college or university, will be weighted. Weighted grade point values for the purpose of the calculations will be A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0, D=1.0, E=0, and F=0.

No more than two independent studies may be counted in calculating class rank. The two credits with the highest grades will be used.

In computing class rank, a course may be counted only one time. If a course is repeated due to having failed in order to achieve a higher grade, the highest grade is the only grade that is to be used in computing class rank.

Courses being accepted for transfer credit, which are the same as those included on the list of weighted courses, are to be considered a weighted course. The final decision regarding whether a transfer course is to be considered a weighted course will be made by the Chief Academic Officer.

No pluses or minuses will be attached to any letter grade. No partial points will be attached to the total.

The letter grade will be used for courses accepted for transfer credit regardless of the grading scale used in the previous school(s) unless the numerical grades are provided. In the event numerical grades are provided, the numerical grades will be converted to the grading scale used by St. Mary's County Public Schools.

Any course dropped after September 15 is to be assigned an F and included in the class rank. Exceptions for cause may be granted by the principal.

Class rank is inclusive of all final grades prior to graduation and is inclusive of summer school, evening high school, correspondence, credit by examination, college, and university courses.

Grade point average shall be calculated to the thousandths place and rounded to the hundredths place with .005 being rounded up.

Foreign exchange students will not be included in class rankings.

Only grades earned in the first four years following grade 8 are used for calculating class rank. High school courses taken in middle school or earlier are not included.

Courses in subject areas not traditionally taught in St. Mary's County Public Schools, such as religion or driver education, are not included unless the course objectives meet the objectives of an approved course taught in St. Mary's County Public Schools.