HCSD Policy 4741

Grade Weighting and Academic Honors

This policy will begín to take effect with the 2019 Cohort (Class of 2023).

The Board of Education recognizes the value of Advanced Placement (AP) and College in the High School (CHS) courses to foster rigor in our students' academic pursuits. In addition, the Board would like to honor the hard work and achievement of our students. The purpose of this policy is to establish a method to recognize students for their scholastic achievement.

Grade Weighting:
Courses will be weighted in the following manner:

1. All Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be given a weight of 8 additional points added to each quarter grade for the high school transcript. ln order to maintain grade weighting for all quarters of AP classes, students must sit for the AP exam, unless no exam is offered.

2. All College in the High School (CHS) courses will be given a weight of 8 additional points added to each quarter grade for the high school transcript.

Weighting of grades will be completed by the guidance office using the student management system. Eligibility and requirements for enrollment in AP and CHS courses can also be found in the guidance office.

Only courses taken on campus, taught by Hudson High School teachers, will receive grade weighting. Courses taken in a location other than Hudson High School will not be eligible to receive grade weighting, including distance learning.

This policy is designed to benefit students who elect to take challenging AP and CHS courses offered at Hudson High School. Upper level course opportunities taken off Hudson City School District premises are not eligible for grade weighting. However, these types of programs provide students with specific benefits by the nature of the opportunities tailored to each student's pathway choice.

Academic Designations:
One student will be recognized for the highest academic achievement in their senior year of high school. The valedictorian will be the student who earned the highest weighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) after seven full semesters (9th, 10th and 11th grade, plus fall semester of

l2th grade). The valedictorian will be announced after the fall semester of senior year is completed. Physical Education classes will be incorporated in the GPA. Grades earned in Summer School will not be included in this final calculation. To be eligible to receive this distinction, the student must be enrolled at Hudson High School for more than two years and have earned credit in at least 6 AP/CHS classes.

One student will be recognized for the second highest academic achievement in their senior year of high school. The salutatorian will be the student who earned the second highest weighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) after seven full semesters (9th, 10th and 11th grade, plus fall semester of 12th grade). The salutatorian will be announced after the fall semester of senior year is completed. Physical Education classes will be incorporated in the GPA. Grades earned in Summer School will not be included in this final calculation. To be eligible to receive this distinction, the student must be enrolled at Hudson High School for more than two years and have earned credit in at least 6 AP/CHS classes.

In addition to these honors, special designations will be awarded to those students achieving a high standard of academic excellence. These designations will be noted on their transcripts and on their diploma:

- Summa Cum Laude - All seniors who earn at least a 95 weighted cumulative GPA and earned credit in at least 6 AP/CHS classes over their high school career (and have taken all applicable AP exams) will be honored during graduation as earning a Summa Cum Laude diploma. This will be denoted in the graduation program and the student will receive a blue and gold cord at commencement.

- Magna Cum Laude - All seniors who earn a 90-94.99 weighted cumulative GPA and earned credit in at least 4 AP/CHS classes (and have taken all applicable AP exams) over their high school career will be honored during graduation as earning a Magna Cum Laude diploma. This will be denoted in the graduation program and the student will receive a blue cord at commencement.

- Cum Laude - All seniors who earn a 85-89.99 weighted cumulative GPA and earned credit in at least 2 AP/CHS classes (and have taken all applicable AP exams) over their high school career will be honored during graduation as earning a Cum Laude diploma. This will be denoted in the graduation program and the student will receive a gold cord at commencement.

Note: Students who earn the designated grade point average but attain a lower number of required AP/CHS classes, will be eligible for the honor connected to the number of classes they attained even though their grade point average is higher than indicated above.

Cross-ref: 4772, Graduation Ceremonies

Adoption date: July 16, 2019