

**Transition of
Academic Reporting
from a Class Rank
System to an Honors
Based System**

**WELCOME FHS
Community!**

- To Inform the FHS Community About The Transition of Academic Reporting from a Class Rank System to an Honors Based System
- To provide background for this procedural change
- To answer any questions regarding changes to this practice

Purpose

- Fosters *unhealthy* competition for high GPA
- High GPA easier to attain by *eliminating* challenging college prep classes
- High ability, high-performing students elect NOT to take challenging college-prep courses
- Hurts many more students than it helps in the college application process

Why are we changing the current practice of reporting class rank?

- Growing number of students clustered at the “top” and throughout grade distribution creates a “pushdown” effect
- Class is compacted and midpoint GPA is inching well above a 3.0
- Students with 3.0 and higher are falling below the 50th percentile and having difficulty with acceptance into MN and WI state colleges

Other drawbacks to the current system

Class of 2011 - 50th percentile rank = 3.0
Class of 2012 - 50th percentile rank = 3.0
Class of 2013 - 50th percentile rank = 3.2
Class of 2014 - 50th percentile rank = 3.15
Class of 2015 - 50th percentile rank = 3.2

Current Rank Information for Graduating Classes

- MACAC (Minnesota Association of College Admission Counselors) reports the majority of high schools surveyed stated they no longer reported class rank OR they are considering the possibility of dropping the procedure of reporting Class Rank .
- Colleges and universities indicate that omission of class rank is **not harmful** to applicants-sufficient information exists on the transcript, school profile, and counselor report form to contextualize a student's academic performance.

National Trend in Regards to Reporting Class Rank

- Colleges and universities do not consider grade point average or grade point distributions as actual class rank.
- Consequently, admissions counselors do not need to include this information as a statistic in their profile of admitted students.
- Therefore, in schools where rank is NOT reported, admissions committees are able to look more holistically at a student rather than dismissing her or him on the basis of a single class rank number.
- The GPA distribution chart or GPA range would still allow college admission officers to see where a student stands.

How the Change Impacts the College Application Process

Colleges Consulted...

- Inver Hills Community College
- Bemidji State University
- MSU Mankato
- St. Cloud State University
- U of M Duluth
- University of North Dakota
- UW Eau Claire
- UW River Falls
- UW Stout
- Winona State University
- Concordia College
- Hamline University
- Iowa State University
- North Dakota
- Northwestern College (Minneapolis, MN)
- Northwestern University (Evanston, IL)
- St. Catherine University
- University of St. Thomas
- Claremont McKenna College
- Dartmouth College
- Harvard
- Pomona College
- Stanford
- UCLA
- U of M Twin Cities
- University of Texas, Austin
- UW LaCrosse
- UW Madison
- University of Notre Dame
- US Naval Academy

- More top students will take challenging college prep classes without fear of losing rank position, earn college credit
- Students with high GPA's remain at the top of the GPA range
- Admission counselors can easily estimate high position in class from GPA range.
- GPA range distribution provides ample information for scholarship purposes and continues to reflect achievement of those clustered at the top of their class.
- A COUNSELOR can confidentially report a specific student ranking directly to college if required for a "top of class" type of admission or scholarship opportunity.

How will this change impact students at the top of GPA range?

- 4.216 g.p.a., top of the current GPA range (could include one ***or more*** students in this position)
- Applying to competitive colleges that offer presidential scholarship to valedictorians
- Counselor reports to colleges and/or scholarship agencies that student(s) is eligible for this “top of class” type of scholarship.

**Student Example 1-
Top GPA in Class**

- 3.1 GPA, 20 A.C.T. score
- Under rank reporting system, below top half of class and therefore not eligible for automatic admission to MN State University-Mankato, Winona, St. Cloud, etc.
- Under new g.p.a. range system, student admitted based on g.p.a.

Student Example 2- Midrange GPA

- More than half of US high schools, and most private and competitive college preparatory high schools, no longer report student rankings (College Board, 2012).
- They have reported no negative impact for students
- One MN high school reported more of their students are getting accepted to highly selective colleges.
- Students with strong GPAs are now able to be automatically accepted into MN and WI State Colleges.

High School Perspectives

- Bloomington Jefferson
- Bloomington Kennedy
- Blake
- Breck
- Cretin-Derham Hall
- DeLaSalle High School
- Chaska High School
- Hill Murray
- Edina
- Eden Prairie
- Fridley
- Hopkins HS
- Irondale
- Mahtomedi
- Minnetonka
- Mound Westonka
- Mounds View
- Park High School
- Rochester Lourdes
- Stillwater
- Wayzata

**High Schools Not Reporting Rank:
A Sampling...**

- Increases in acceptance rates, in particular with the middle to upper middle range students, and with public universities that use cut-off scores.
- Some of the benefits noted: reduced unhealthy competition among students; willingness to take more challenging courses; and a better overall learning environment without the constant worry of class rank.
- College Admissions Directors report applicants are NOT penalized for not reporting rank.
- College representatives have reported that class rank is not considered a necessary factor in the admission's process, and that student's applications will receive a more holistic review without the reporting of rank.
- NEGATIVES reported-NONE!

Results Reported Among Schools That Changed Their Reporting Practices:

- Current Honor Roll Recognition and Requirements Remain (Honor Roll, Lettering, etc.)
- Recognition for Graduates
 - Honors: 3.00-3.667
 - High Honors: 3.668-3.99
 - Distinguished Scholars-4.0+ AND 3 or more college level classes. ***This information will be provided on the school profile which is used to inform colleges about Farmington High School***

Recognizing Achievement

- **Current Practice:** “Top 5” and Top 10% Banquet
- **New Practice** Distinguished Scholars-All students with a GPA of 4.0 or better who have also completed 3 or more college level classes will be recognized and invited to attend the annual Academic Awards Banquet.

Recognizing High Achievement:

Feedback on This Evening's Session

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13bDRfBCdGtKJnLx5OjwYBWRNKnSk2X8wIqJy_xW70Hc/viewform