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Valedictorian Criteria

The designation of valedictorian shall be awarded to the graduating senior who has attained the highest level of academic achievement while maintaining academic integrity throughout their senior high school career. The designation of salutatorian shall be awarded to the person who ranks second using the same criteria. Four distinct criteria are considered in determining the recipients of these awards: (1) adjusted GPA, (2) core subject course minimum, (3) four-year D'Evelyn Senior High School attendance, and (4) academic integrity.

These criteria for the selection of valedictorian are listed in the Course Planning Guide and communicated with students.

Determination of Valedictorian

1. Adjusted GPA

The principal or their designee(s) shall examine the records of the seniors with the highest adjusted GPAs to determine the valedictorian and salutatorian.

The candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian shall be determined using the students' weighted grade-point averages, as outlined below:

- Tally the students' grade points as documented on the transcript for grades 9-12.
- Weight grade points as follows:
 - Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Latin V, and advanced math courses above AP Calculus BC (Ref. CU-08-R4) will be weighted on a 5-point scale
 - All D'Evelyn Honors courses will be weighted on a 4.5 scale
 - All other courses will be weighted on a 4.0 scale
- Divide the total grade points by the total number of completed credits to obtain the Adjusted GPA.*
- Adjusted GPAs will be rounded to the 1000th decimal (0.001).
- The students' adjusted GPAs will establish class ranking for purposes of determining the valedictorian and salutatorian.
 - Students will not be ranked at D'Evelyn *except for purposes of* determining valedictorian and salutatorian. The information is assembled for internal administrative purposes only.

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- In the case of weighting changes to a course, the following considerations apply only for the purpose of determining valedictorian and salutatorian:
 - No weighting changes will affect the current senior class
 - For a change to take effect during the next academic year, the change must occur prior to the publication of the Course Planning Guide
- This particular calculation may be different from the weighted GPA documented on a transcript.

*Unless an assigned study hall is used for the purpose of attending a PSEO course, assigned Study Hall(s) and Teacher Assistant sections with a pass/fail grade will receive no credits toward graduation and will be calculated as zero points when determining the adjusted grade point average. In unique medical circumstances, the principal may waive the zero-point calculation provision for up to one semester of Study Hall.

If two students have the identical highest-ranked adjusted GPA, and they have both met all other criteria, they shall be named co-valedictorians. If the valedictorian position is shared, there will be no salutatorian. If two students have the identical second highest-ranked adjusted GPA, and they have both met all other criteria, they shall be named co-salutatorians.

2. Core Subject Course Minimum

Candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian must have completed 18 credits in core academic senior high school level courses. Any course listed in the Course Planning Guide in the English, Social Studies/History, Mathematics, Science, and World Language sections, and any Steering Committee approved college course in a core subject, will count towards the core subject course minimum.

3. D'Evelyn Four Year Attendance

The candidate for valedictorian or salutatorian must have been enrolled at D'Evelyn for all of their senior high school years.

4. Academic Integrity

Candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian will be disqualified if they have been disciplined during high school for any form of academic dishonesty or Academic Contract violation. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and inappropriate use of media resources.

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Graduation Speech

The valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s) shall have the opportunity, but will not be required, to speak at Commencement. All speeches must be approved by the administration.

National Junior Honor Society/National Honor Society

- For high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a cumulative weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher after the respective fall semester will be eligible to apply for National Honor Society membership.
- Junior high students who earn a GPA of 3.80 or higher will be eligible for consideration for National Junior Honor Society.
- The policies of D'Evelyn's NHS/NJHS chapters will comply with those organizations' national constitutions and local chapter bylaws.

Academic Lettering and Honor Roll

Weighted GPA from student transcripts will be used for academic lettering and honor roll eligibility.

Academic Lettering

Students earning a weighted GPA of 3.75 for two consecutive high school semesters in the same school year will be awarded an academic letter.

Honor Roll

GPA requirement:

- Platinum 4.0+
- Gold 3.75-3.99
- Silver 3.5-3.74
- Bronze 3.0-3.49

Academic Awards

Staff members will identify select students who have shown academic excellence in and/or outside the classroom, and those students will be presented with an award for such achievements

Adopted: March 08, 1999

Amended: August 9, 2006, April 19, 2021, February 7, 2022, March 13, 2023, November 17, 2025

References:

ST-01 Academic Recognition

CU-06 Honors and Advanced Course Enrollment

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CU-06-R Honors and Advanced Course Enrollment

CU-07 Executive Internship

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