

BHHS CLASS RANK RESEARCH TEAM

Working together to find a solution



THE CATALYST:

Outdated and Problematic System of Class Rank

Valedictorian (#1) Class of 2017

Total Quality Points--161.8311

Overall G.P.A.--4.282

14 Honors/A.P. Classes

Total Credits--37.79

Salutatorian (#2) Class of 2017

Total Quality Points--159.1654

Overall G.P.A.--4.586

16 Honors/A.P. Classes

Total Credits--34.7

OTHER CONCERNS/BACKGROUND

- Stress/Anxiety
- Students bypassing courses they desire to focus on all weighted coursework
- Students in top 10-20 separated by thousandths of a point
- Unhealthy competition (competing against one another rather than a rigorous curriculum)

Mission statement:

Our mission is to transform a traditional model of a class rank policy into a (recommended) policy best suited to ensure a student-centered environment and support/recognize all students for their academic achievement in a fair and equitable process.

THE RESEARCH TEAM

A team comprised of all stakeholders

Johanna Fink

Student-Class of 2018

Taylor Roberts

Student-Class of 2019

Michael Sexton

Student-Class of 2020

Jackson Carter

Student-Class of 2021

Mr. Tomasi

Board member/Parent

Mr. Rothermel

Board member/Parent

Mrs. Wartzluft

Parent

Mrs. Tavares

Parent

Dr. Dolan

Teacher

Mrs. Paxson

Teacher/Parent

Ms. Moore

Teacher

Ms. Stricker

Guidance Counselor

Mr. Favata

Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Carpenito

Assistant Principal

Mr. Voelker

Assistant to the
Superintendent

Mr. Potteiger

Superintendent

THE PROCESS

- Four in-person meetings (first meeting February then every two weeks)
- Shared Google Doc
- Review of Literature
- Berks and Lehigh County Study (All H.S.)
- Guiding Questions for Group/Organic Conversation (the reason we are actually here this evening)
- As discussions evolved, only one “solution” was being recommended unanimously by the team to move forward

A close-up photograph of a person's hands using a compass and ruler on a drawing board. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background is blurred, showing some bokeh lights. The text "The solution" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

The solution

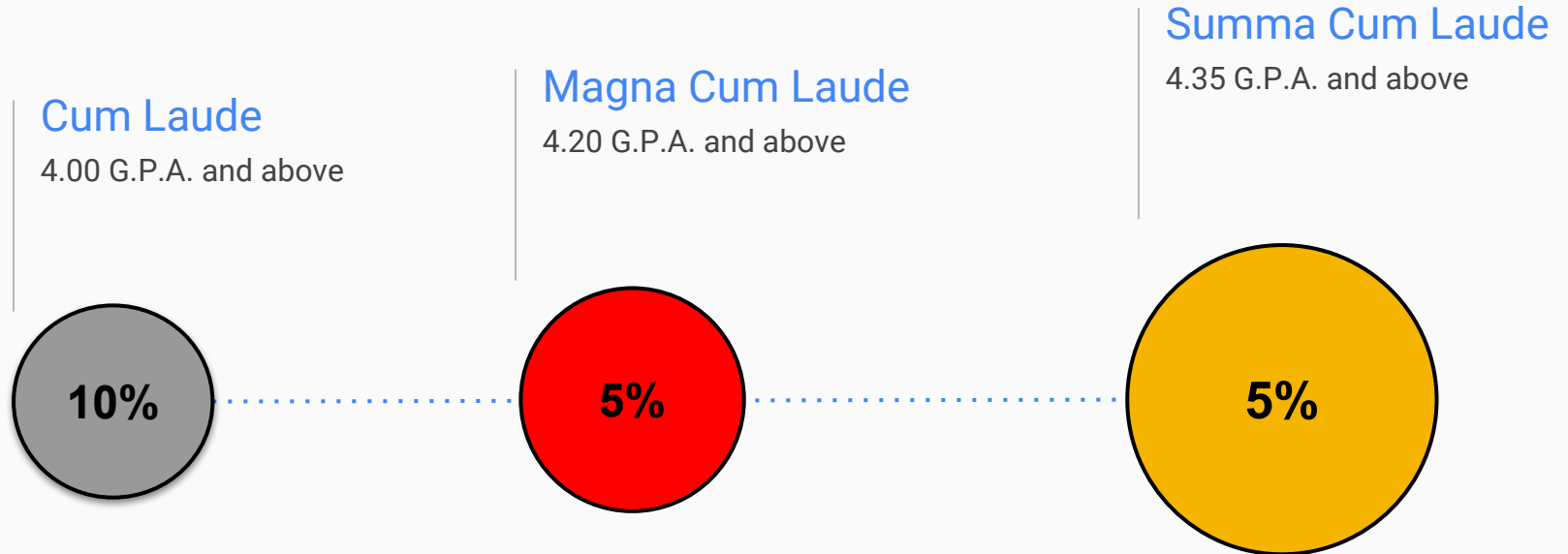
LATIN HONORS SYSTEM

Summa Cum Laude

Magna Cum Laude

Cum Laude

CLASSIFICATIONS OF HONORS (6 year data analysis)



GUIDING QUESTIONS

IS THE LATIN HONORS SYSTEM G.P.A. BASED?

Yes

The team recommends clear-cut benchmark G.P.A.'s for each classification so that students are aware of the goal.

DO WE RECOGNIZE VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN?

No

The team recommends the elimination of class rank; therefore, this would eliminate Valedictorian and Salutatorian titles. *(implementation year is a later question tonight)*

DO WE PUBLISH CLASS RANK?

No

The team recommends the elimination of class rank; therefore, this would eliminate publishing class rank. Should a university “require” it, BHHS will produce internally and share with university. Very few schools “require” the reporting of class rank.

WILL MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSEWORK “COUNT” FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

The team recommends that students taking High School level coursework in the Middle School (ex. Algebra I, Algebra II, etc.) receive credit for the course only (graduation requirement) but no G.P.A. A high school student's G.P.A. will begin on the first day of ninth grade.

DO WE PUBLISH THE LATIN HONORS SYSTEM ON FINAL REPORT CARDS FOR ALL GRADES OR ONLY SENIORS?

The team recommends that the Latin Honors System classifications will be published only on the final report card for seniors. Student G.P.A.'s show up on quarterly report cards and students will be aware of the cutoff G.P.A.'s for the awards.

WILL WE MAINTAIN THE CURRENT VALUES FOR PERCENTAGES?

Yes

The team recommends that we keep the current G.P.A. values assigned for percentages (100%=4.33). We will “round off” to two decimal places for all values. We will also re-evaluate every four to five years.

WHAT IS THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS?

The team recommends that we implement the Latin Honors System beginning immediately with this year's graduating class. The breakdown will be as follows:

TRANSITION TIMELINE

CURRENT GRADE	LATIN HONORS SYSTEM	COMMITTEE POSITION (CLASS RANK/VAL/SAL)	ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION
12TH	17-18 SY	Keep Current System	Keep Current System and Overlay LHS
11TH	18-19 SY	?	Transition to LHS only effective 18-19 SY
10TH	19-20 SY	?	Transition to LHS only effective 18-19 SY
9TH	20-21 SY	Eliminate Current System	Transition to LHS only effective 18-19 SY

CLASS OF 2019 Survey (Top 7 students and Class Officers)

- 10 students voted
 - All 10 voted to eliminate Val and Sal

CLASS OF 2020 Survey (Top 7 students and Class Officers)

- 10 students voted
 - 5 students voted to eliminate Val and Sal
 - 5 students voted to keep Val and Sal

CLASS OF 2021 Survey (Top 7 students and Class Officers)

- 9 students voted
 - 6 students voted to eliminate Val and Sal
 - 3 students voted to keep Val and Sal

WILL WE STILL HAVE GRADUATION SPEAKERS?

Yes (voluntary applicants)

The team recommends we have the following:

Academic speaker: selected from Summa group

BCTC speaker

Class Officer speaker: farewell speech

SUMMARY

- Elimination of Class Rank, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian
- Implementation of Latin Honors System will recognize more students for their accomplishments
- Students will compete against “themselves” (and the rigorous curriculum) for the awards (G.P.A. based)
- Latin Honors System takes a more “holistic” approach than current system
- “Credit Cap” may be unnecessary
- Solves the inequity at the M.S. level
- Modify Current Class Rank Policy

FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

Team 1

District-Wide Grading System Evaluation (K-12)

Team 2

Class Weighting Research/Grade Scale
Adjustment Research Team

Team 3

Graduation Requirements

FUTURE FOCUS FOR DISTRICT AND HIGH SCHOOL

MISCELLANEOUS THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

(future teams)

- Do we continue to weight coursework?
 - A.P./Honors/Dual Enrollment (Values)
- Do we maintain 69% as a failing percentage?
- Do we move to a 4.0/4.5/5.0 scale?
- Do we give grades in a range?

THANK YOU

