Seniors, as many of you are in the heavy time of applying for scholarships, here is some important information for you. This sheet is given to you, and reviewed with you, because there is often some confusion on these topics, and rightfully so (it’s confusing).

**Grade Point Average**

When applying to colleges and for scholarships, and when you are providing information to anyone that needs your GPA, **the only GPA that matters, and the only GPA you should provide, is your *unweighted*** GPA.

* **Why?** The state of Washington ONLY recognizes unweighted grade point averages; this means that on your transcript, the only GPA that will be printed is the unweighted GPA. Transcripts come from the state, even though we print them here, they are state generated.
* **What does this mean?** If on a scholarship or college application, or any other form you complete asking for a GPA, you provide a weighted GPA, we cannot verify that and when we send the transcript that ***they do request from us*** before they award anything. The weighted GPA will not be included, and cannot be. Organizations DO NOT accept the class ranking sheet. It is not official in any way.
* **Some applications ask for both weighted and unweighted GPA. What do I do?** You do NOT include the weighted GPA. Some states do not limit the grade point averages that are displayed on transcripts. YOU DO NOT get penalized by the college, scholarship organization, etc., when you do not include a weighted GPA. It is understood by these organizations that not all schools provide weighted GPAs, and not all states allow them.
* **If the state does not recognize weighted GPAs, why do we have them in Oakesdale?** Years ago, in an effort to recognize the increased level of difficulty and rigor of the work required of the college level courses offered by Running Start, the district implemented weighted grade point averages for the purpose of selecting the Valedictorian and Salutatorian **ONLY.**
* **What classes count toward a weighted GPA?** Any Running Start class, taken on a college campus, online, or here in Oakesdale (i.e. Mr. Strong’s math classes done through CWU); any time you took an AP exam for a course and scored a 3 or higher (i.e. if you took Mrs. Crow’s English class as a Jr. or Sr. and took the AP exam; or AP Art and submitted a portfolio).

In the years since implementing weighted grade point averages for the selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian, we have had classes where no student had taken a class that qualified for a weighted grade, we have had classes where those that had weighted grades did not receive Valedictorian or Salutatorian because their grades were still low and their overall GPA did not qualify them. We have also had classes like this year, where several students had taken the college level classes.

**How can there be more than one Valedictorian or Salutatorian?** The Valedictorian is the student(s) with the highest GPA in the class, the Salutatorian has the second highest GPA in the class. There can be more than one person for each honor. In checking the GPA for each of these positions, we look at up to the third decimal point on the GPA (i.e. 3.999). Nothing after the third “9” matters.

* If two students have a 4.000 and they are the highest GPAs earned in the glass, those two are Valedictorians.
* If in the same class, one student has a 3.999, that student is the Salutatorian.

**The final question, *when are Valedictorian and Salutatorian students selected?* OFFICIALLY,** your ENTIRE high school career counts, therefore it is after your last day in May/June. It is after semester one of your senior year that we announce CANDIDATES for Valedictorian and Salutatorian, which are the #1 and #2 ranked students at that time.

* There are times that class rank changes from earlier in the year. For example, you may have completed a scholarship (or any) application in November, or January, and your rank may have been #2. In June, when final grades are entered and final GPA is calculated, you finish at #3. That is okay, you did not lie. At the time of application, your rank was #2. Best advice, work hard so your rank does not go down. Keep in mind, your rank can go up too.

**School Contact Information**

Because Oakesdale is a small school and our staffing is different from a “traditional” large school that most applications are based on, here is what you put down for specific contact information (it is really quite easy):

Anywhere it asks for the following positions: **Superintendent, Principal, Registrar, or a position you don’t know,** the name you put is: **Dr. Jake Dingman.** The contact information you provide is 509-285-5296, [jdingman@gonighthawks.net](mailto:jdingman@gonighthawks.net)

Anywhere it asks for the following positions: **Counselor, Academic Counselor, Guidance Counselor, College Counselor, College Advisor-any position like any of these,** the name you put is: **Ms. Jenna Brown.** The contact information you provide is 509-285-5296, [jennabrown@gonighthawks.net](mailto:jdingman@gonighthawks.net)

**Running Start/College in the Classroom**

If you have taken one of Mr. Strong’s college level math courses, have taken any other Running Start classes (i.e. Art Appreciation, or others), you will need to request a transcript from that college be sent to the college you plan to attend. Here is which schools to request from:

**Any of Mr. Strong’s Math Classes (MTH 101, 153/154, 172/173, etc):** Central Washington University

**Art Appreciation** (taught by Mrs. Mills a few years ago): Spokane Falls Community College

**Running Start:** Whichever school you attended (Eastern or SFCC)

To do this, visit their website and look for the Registrar’s page. There will be a button, section, instructions on how to “request a transcript.”