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August 7, 2018

Freshman Students and Families,

We are writing with more information about the Cum Laude Program you first learned of during the 8th grade welcome night. While this program honors senior students who demonstrate excellence throughout their four years in District 127, students should began tracking their progress toward this goal freshman year. Recipients must have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher and demonstrate the well-rounded characteristics valued by our Knight and Ram families and by potential employers, colleges, and universities. Specifically, students will earn an award by performing at high levels in the categories of dedication, character, volunteerism, responsibility, pride, and academic excellence in addition to having a “B” average or better.

Please find enclosed an informational sheet detailing the program and the three levels of honor a student might achieve. You may find this and other information, including links to the application and appeal forms, on the Curriculum and Instruction page at <http://www.d127.org/curriculum/index> . Unlike the old system of Valedictorian, Salutatorian and class rankings which sorted and ranked students solely by GPA and rewarded only the top two students in each graduating class, there is no limit to the number of students who can earn recognition through this program. All students who achieve the impressive benchmarks can earn one of three designation levels, Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude. Each honored students will get a special demarcation of his or her achievement to wear on graduation day.

Students will receive additional communication about informational meetings to be held in each building to learn more about the program. The Associate Principals for Curriculum and Instruction will send that communication at the start of the school year.

Early in the school year, all students will get a link emailed to their school account which, when opened, will place a copy of a Student Cum Laude Portfolio file in their school Google accounts. Students should rename this folder following the directions within the email. In this folder, students will store evidence of their progress towards the goals of the program and will ultimately submit a link to in their final Cum Laude application, due by February 1st of their senior year.

The Cum Laude Program does NOT replace our regular honor roll system, or National Honors Society, rather, it rewards students with a B average or better who also model good citizenship and a dedication to community and self-improvement.

We would like to thank all the students, parents, community members and administrative teams that have worked hard to implement this program to celebrate student success. If you have questions about student selection, contact your student’s counselor. If you have questions about the Cum Laude program feel free to contact your counselor or Jeff Schagrin at Grayslake North at [jschagrin@d127.org](mailto:jschagrin@d127.org) or Barbara Georges at Grayslake Central at [bgeorges@d127.org](mailto:bgeorges@d127.org).

Sincerely,



Tracey Landry

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

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