

Latin Honors System Proposal

Depew High School

Spring 2023

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DHS Current System

- **Depew High School currently uses the traditional ranking system**
- **We have our valedictorian, salutatorian and third in class speak at graduation**
- **Administrative Regulation 7220R**

Latin Honors

- **Proficiency-based learning system**
- **System to indicate different levels of academic distinction**
- **Recognizes all students whose performance exceeded high standards of achievement thresholds**
- **Commonly used in colleges or universities**

Ranking System Findings

- **Class rank is NOT Required on the College Common Application**
- **Schools vary widely in their ranking procedures**
- **The percentage of colleges that consider class rank as considerably important in the admissions process has declined substantially**
 - **1993 – 42%**
 - **2012 – 19%**
 - **2019 – 9 % (State of College Admissions, NACAC 2019)**
- **Almost 60% of High Schools across America do NOT rank students**

Ranking System Findings

- **Students are separated in rank by miniscule differences in averages**
- **Class rank can give a student an incentive to manipulate the system**
- **In a Latin Honors system, students are competing against a challenging curriculum, not against classmates**
- **Class ranking only recognizes a comparatively small number of students**
- **Students may not take viable or challenging courses to protect or bolster their rank**

DHS Valedictorian/Salutatorian Quotes

- **“There are benefits that encourage students to push themselves and work hard to move up the ranks, there's also many negative outcomes such as feelings of inadequacy, toxic competition, and excessive stress over coursework/exams.”**
- **“I would have been much happier during high school if I wasn't always overwhelmed and stressed about being the "best" and the "smartest.”**

DHS Valedictorian/Salutatorian Quotes

- **“I am fairly certain that I applied and got into most of my colleges before class rank was even fully determined and being named valedictorian didn’t affect any of my scholarships as they were mostly based on GPA and not class rank.”**
- **“As a "recovering" valedictorian, I appreciate this change. Too much pressure and competition to be #1.”**

Latin Honors Findings

- **Latin Honors recognize the accomplishments of more students**
- **Latin Honors represent a much broader spectrum of academic achievement**
- **Latin Honors are more fundamentally equitable**
- **Colleges, universities, and the general public are familiar with Latin Honors**
- **More students may be able to earn scholarship money**

Groundwork

- **Academic Advisory Council**
- **Researched, spoke and/or met with area school representatives that have or are in the process of transitioning away from class ranking**
- **Data Analysis with CIO**

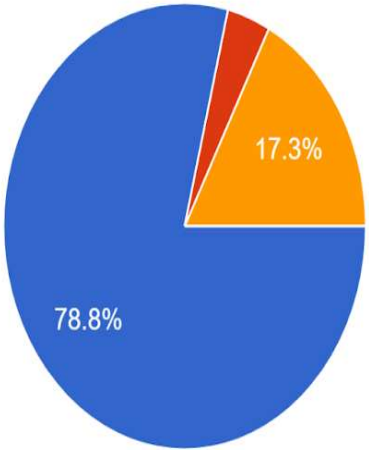
Other Research

- **Great Schools Partnership**
- **NASSP**
(National Association of Secondary School Principals)
- **NACAC**
(National Association for College Admission Counseling)
- **Various other sources**

DHS Faculty Survey Results

What is your stance on Depew High School transitioning away from class ranking and moving towards a Latin Honors system for a future incoming Freshmen class?

52 responses



- In favor of going to a Latin Honors system
- Opposed to going to a Latin Honors system as I am in favor of traditional rank
- Undecided

52 Responses

41 in favor
9 undecided
2 opposed

Latin Honors Determination

- CIO provided data as to cut scores of top 10%, 20% and 40% over last 5 years of the seven semester determination
- Proposed Latin Honors system
 - Summa Cum laude 96-100
 - Magna Cum laude 93-95.99
 - Cum Laude 90-92.99
- Appeals process for students in very high 80s with considerations for AP, AS, Honors, Extracurricular Activities, Service and Leadership

Starting with Class of 2027

- **Phase out Class Rank**
- **Phase out Valedictorian/ Salutatorian Designation**
- **Transition to a Latin Honors System**
- **Develop a Recognition Award**

Next Steps

- **BOE support, change Administrative Regulation 7220R**
- **Start with Class of 2027**
- **Parent Information Night**
- **Update School Profile to demonstrate we are not using class rank**
- **Develop a plan to recognize the Latin Honors students and select a speaker for graduation**

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Questions?