

The Board of Education strongly supports academic excellence in our high schools. In recognition of high academic achievement, this policy will designate the selection of honor students as well as Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Vocational Honor Student at the end of the first semester of the senior year beginning with the 2008-2009 school year.

A. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

1. Students meeting the requirements for the North Carolina Scholars Program with a cumulative weighted numeric average GPA of 4.0 or greater will graduate "With Superior Honors."
2. Students with a cumulative weighted numeric average ranging from 3.5 to 3.99 will graduate "With Honors." These students do not have to be NC Scholars.
3. Weighted GPAs will be used to designate junior marshals. Each high school will determine the number needed. Junior Marshalls will be determined at the end of the first semester of the junior year.

B METHOD OF SELECTION

The Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Vocational Honor Student shall be selected according to the following criteria.

The Valedictorian shall be the student who has obtained the highest weighted grade point average. The Salutatorian shall be the student who has obtained the second highest weighted grade point average.

The Vocational Honor Student shall have completed four (4) Career Technical Education (CTE) credits with one being an upper level or advanced course. The student will have the highest GPA, but must have a minimum cumulative un-weighted GPA of 3.0.

1. The final semester grades beginning with the 9th grade year and terminating on the last school day of the 1st semester of the 12th grade year will be used to determine students' cumulative averages.
2. The principal or his/her designee shall calculate grades according to the State Reporting System Program. If a student has reason to believe that there is a discrepancy between his/her computation and that of the principal, it is the student's responsibility to request validation of the computation. Class ranking will be calculated at the end of each semester and during the first ten days of school each year.
3. The cumulative average will be computed to four places to the right of the decimal.
4. Students transferring to a Cherokee County high school from a school where numeric grades are given will have those grades converted to letter grades as follows:

Regular Classes	Honors	Advanced Placement
A = 4.0	A = 5.0	A = 6.0
B = 3.0	B = 4.0	B = 5.0
C = 2.0	C = 3.0	C = 4.0
D = 1.0	D = 2.0	D = 3.0
F = 0	F = 0	F = 0

Transfer grades not accepted for credit will be omitted from the computation

5. Students eligible for Valedictorian, Salutatorian or Vocational Honors must complete four consecutive semesters with that graduating class, at that high school, by the time of graduation.
6. The Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Vocational Honors student will be invited to speak at graduation.
7. Should two or more students considered for Valedictorian, Salutatorian, or Vocational Honors have the same weighted grade point average, then the following tie-breaker process will be employed.
 - a. The student with the highest number of credits earned in grades 9-12 shall be selected as Valedictorian or Salutatorian.
 - b. If there are an equal number of credits earned, then the student with the highest composite ACT score shall be selected. If one or more students completed more than one ACT, the highest composite test score will be counted.
 - c. If a tie still exists, the honor will be shared by the two students.

Cross References: Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements

Adopted: July 15, 1999 (Originally adopted August 1, 1995)
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