

# NORTHEAST DUBOIS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

## Home of the "JEEPS"

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Northeast Dubois Jr/Sr High School is proposing to move toward a weighted grading system of calculating Grade Point Averages (GPA's) beginning with the Class of 2023. A weighted GPA is calculated by awarding additional points to classes that are considered more challenging than the basic curriculum. Along with this move toward a weighted grading system, Northeast Dubois Jr/Sr High School is also planning to move toward a *Laude* system of recognition, which will eliminate the current class ranking system.

### Weighted Grades:

- A. Weighted grades will apply for GPA and all other purposes beginning with the class of 2023.
- B. Additional course weighting will be:
  - a. AP Chemistry - 2 points (2-semester course)
  - b. AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based - 2 points (2-semester course)
  - c. AP Calculus AB - 2 points (2-semester course)
  - d. AP Biology - 2 points (2-semester course)
  - e. AP Psychology - 2 points (2-semester course)
  - f. AP 2-D Art & Design - 2 points (2-semester course)
  - g. Dual Credit Advanced English (Grade 12) - 1 point (1-semester course)
  - h. Dual Credit English Literature (Grade 12) -1 point (1-semester course)
  - i. Dual Credit Advanced Composition (Grade 11) - 1 point (1-semester course)
  - j. Dual Credit American Literature (Grade 11) - 1 point (1-semester course)
  - k. Dual Credit Pre-Calculus: Algebra - 1 point (1-semester course)
  - l. Dual Credit Pre-Calculus: Trigonometry - 1 point (1-semester course)
- C. The number of weighted semesters that a student can be credited for is capped at 16. Students may still take additional classes that fall under the weighted category, but once passing the 16 weighted semesters, these courses will receive no additional weight.
- D. Grade of "C-" or above is required to receive a weighted grade.
- E. Once a student completes a weighted class receiving a grade of "C-" or above, they will receive an additional .0625 points added directly to their cumulative GPA.  
Sample: GPA: 4.0 (all A's) + 16 weighted credits X .0625 = 5.0 (weighted GPA).
- F. The GPA of a student is only calculated at the end of the semester.
- G. Online Advanced Placement Courses, Online Dual Credit Courses, and Independent Study Courses will not receive a weighted grade.

H. If a student moves between a weighted and a non-weighted course during the semester, his/her grade will reflect course placement at the end of the semester.

I. Students who transfer to Northeast Dubois Jr/Sr High School will be able to have their course weighted if they were weighted at their previous school and if Northeast Dubois offers a similar weighted course. Move-in transcripts will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Transition to *Laude* Latin Distinction Model:

A. Beginning with the class of 2023, Northeast Dubois Jr/Sr High School will add the distinction of *Summa Cum Laude* (with highest distinction), *Magna Cum Laude* (with great distinction), and *Cum Laude* (with distinction). This addition of the *Laude* distinction eliminates class rank and also eliminates the recognition of a Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

B. *Laude* distinction will be determined after the 8th semester and will be recognized at graduation.

Distinction	GPA
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	4.760 - 5.000
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	4.376 - 4.759
<i>Cum Laude</i>	4.000 - 4.375

Reasons for the Change:

A. A weighted grading system rewards students for taking challenging classes.

B. A weighted grading system tends to provide more scholarship opportunities for students.

C. A tiered recognition system recognizes students for the rigor of their academic program as well as their success.

D. The *Laude* system provides a fair and uniform system for student recognition that eliminates the inconsistency of multiple grading platforms and the pressure of class rank.

E. The reliance on class rank for college admission is misleading and fosters student behaviors that many educators view as counterproductive to the learning environment. These may include: avoidance of challenging classes that might impact GPA/rank, excessive competition with peers, and a hesitation to take an intellectual and academic risk.

F. Discontinuing the valedictorian and salutatorian recognition, and the competitive nature of earning these titles, would encourage students to explore classes that are of personal interest and aligned with their post-secondary goals.

Frequently Asked Questions:

**A. What happens to class rank and what if it is needed for scholarships or college admissions?**

Class rank would not be reported unless for the rare exception of it being absolutely necessary for a specific college application. The trend across the nation is fewer high schools reporting class rank and fewer colleges considering class rank.

**B. How will valedictorian and salutatorian be determined?**

Valedictorian and salutatorian will be eliminated. A class speaker for graduation will be determined by an application process.

**C. How will students be recognized?**

Students who have earned *Laude* recognition will be recognized in local publications, at school recognition programs, and during graduation.

**D. How will a graduation speaker be selected?**

Any senior who qualifies for *Laude* recognition will have the opportunity to apply to be the speaker at graduation. Students will submit a speech for review. Members of the senior class and the school staff members will select a graduation speaker from the submissions.