

Why change from Class Rank?

Class rank is not an accurate representation of student success, especially not for how students compare to others. Each grade has a different level of achievement, some filled with high achievers with excellent GPA, and others with few high achievers. Put simply, the same student in two different grades could have extremely different Ranks.

Some classes are harder than others; if a student takes many AP classes, the GPA can't be accurately compared to a student who only took entry level courses. Adding weighted grades does not solve this problem, as it encourages high achieving students to take weighted courses in order to boost their GPA instead of exploring specialized non-AP classes that could benefit their future careers.

Most importantly, students' academic futures would not be hurt by having no class rank. At one time, colleges may have considered class rank to be an important admissions consideration. Colleges are now increasingly recognizing that many high schools are no longer using class rank, and most do not consider it to be a significant factor.

In response to how much class rank counts in admissions, University of Michigan responded "*Many high schools no longer use class rank for their students. If it is offered, it helps to consider the student in the context of their high school. However, the lack of a class rank does not negatively impact chances for admission.*"

To Qualify for Cum Laude or Higher:

It is our belief that this system is a fairer system and will allow the recognition of a wider range of students. Under the Laude system students must meet the two criteria. The student must minimally have a 3.2 cumulative GPA (this is calculated at 7 semesters) and the amount of honor points associated with the level of honor. However, students are not punished for taking non-AP courses that are relevant to their career path. A student can qualify for Cum Laude without taking any AP or Honor level courses. Taking harder classes earns students a higher honor. Once a student meets these requirements they can earn one of the following distinctions:

Cum Laude



(With honor/distinction)

0—8.5 honor points

Magna Cum Laude

(With great honor/distinction)

9-14.5 honor points

Summa Cum Laude

(With highest honor/distinction)

15 honor points or more

Academic Excellence Scholarship:

Refer to language spelled out in Board Policy 345.52

Northland Pines High School



Laude System

***Does Class Rank truly tell the whole story
for college admissions?***



College Ratings of the Importance of Various Factors in the Admission Decision: Fall 2011

Factor	Considerable	Moderate	Limited	None
Grades in college prep courses	84.3%	11.9%	2.3%	1.5%
Strength of curriculum	67.7	20.4	5.8	6.2
Admission test scores (SAT, ACT)	59.2	29.6	6.9	4.2
Grades in all courses	51.9	39.2	6.9	1.9
Essay or writing sample	24.9	37.5	17.2	20.3
Student's demonstrated interest	20.5	29.7	24.7	25.1
Counselor recommendation	19.2	39.8	27.2	13.8
Class Rank	18.8	31.0	31.4	18.8
Teacher recommendation	16.5	41.9	26.5	15.0
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	6.9	31.2	31.5	30.4
Portfolio	6.6	12.8	30.2	50.4
Interview	6.2	25.4	25.8	42.7
SAT II scores	5.4	9.7	22.6	62.3
Extracurricular activities	5.0	43.1	38.1	13.8
State graduation exam	4.2	14.9	23.8	57.1
Work	2.3	17.0	43.2	37.5

Our Laude System Policy

The Laude System replaces the class rank system. Class rank will not be provided to colleges for admissions purposes. The transcript will report the student's cumulative grade point average with an accompanying Laude point score and distinction. A cover letter will be provided to the colleges explaining our Laude System.

Will Colleges Accept This System?

Yes – While many colleges consider rank when available, it is not held against the student if their school does not have one. Without the indicator of rank, admissions officer will have to look closer at applicants and consider the following:

Rigor of Curriculum

Test Scores

Recommendations

High School Record

Talents and Activities

Mitigating Factors

Personal Essays

Will this Help or Hurt our Students?

Based on the information we have gathered from other schools who have moved away from Class Rank – the resounding answer is that it will help.

This new system will cause colleges to look beyond class rank and take a closer look at a student's full body of work.

Other schools have seen a higher acceptance rate to colleges and especially to the more competitive colleges.

Laude Overview

The Laude System allows us to recognize and encourage students to take appropriate courses that will better prepare them for the future. This is a point based system that gets combined with a student's GPA, under our normal grading scale. This system will reward a student for taking designated honors courses and will earn the student 1 honor point (per semester) or .5 honor point (per semester). **(Please note that a student must successfully complete the course to earn honors points.)** Under this system students taking Advanced Placement Courses or Project Lead the Way Courses will receive 1 honor point per semester for each of these courses taken. For all other courses designated as Advanced Standing or Honors, the student will receive .5 an honors point per semester.

Laude Honors Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) and Project Lead The Way (PLTW) courses = 1 honor point per semester for each course completed and passed.

AP Offerings:

Art
Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Economics Micro/Macro
English Language & Comp
English Literature & Comp
European History
German
Psychology
Probability & Statistics
U.S. History

Honors Courses:

Accounting 1
Accounting 2
Art Studio
Automotive Technology
Advanced Chemistry Lab
Medical Terminology
Physics
Pre-Calculus
Spanish 4
Spanish 5

Advanced Placement Prerequisites:

Strong reader
Independent learner
Strong writer
Independent worker
Ability to do college level work
Critical thinking skills
Positive attitude

Project Lead The Way (Pre-Engineering Courses):

IED – Introduction to Engineering Design
POE – Principles of Engineering
CIM - Computer Integrated Manufacturing

