

CLASS RANK COMMITTEE  
2009

RECOMMENDATIONS

The academic environment at Parkland High School is very challenging with the majority of students pursuing rigorous coursework and earning exemplary grades. Our committee does not believe that the public reporting of individual class rank fairly communicates our students' achievements and abilities in light of the school population. Therefore, our committee brings to the Parkland Board of School Directors the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. Eliminate the public reporting of Class Rank beginning with the Class of 2013 (our 9<sup>th</sup> grade class in the fall of 2009).
2. Amend PSD Policy #214 to preclude the public reporting of Class Rank.
3. Beginning with the Class of 2013, cease the recognition of a valedictorian and salutatorian at graduation. Instead, the committee recommends recognition of the top 2-3% of the students in the graduating class at commencement. This would recognize more of our top performing students.
4. Beginning with the Class of 2013, the committee proposes that a three tiered quality point system be implemented for student grading. This system would assign quality points relative to the rigor of the curriculum and grades earned. Our current system assigns quality points in a two tiered system. Advanced Placement and Honors courses are assigned equivalent weighted quality points in comparison to regular course offerings. In the proposed three tiered system, Advanced Placement courses would receive weighted quality points greater than the weighted quality points assigned for Honors courses, and Honors courses

would received weighted quality points greater than those assigned to Regular course offerings.

5. Increase our educational initiatives regarding the "Power of the Academic Transcript" to include students, parents, faculty, staff, and administration K-12.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

### Phase I

1. The committee recommends that the students currently enrolled in the classes of 2012, 2011, and 2010 at PHS be provided with the option of reporting or not reporting class rank on their transcript beginning with the 2009 - 2010 school year.
2. Beginning with the Class of 2013 and beyond, we will not publicly report class rank.
3. Beginning with the Class of 2013 and beyond, we will not recognize a valedictorian and salutatorian. Instead, we would recognize the top 2-3% of the graduating class during commencement.
4. The "Power of the Transcript" education and marketing initiative would begin during the summer of 2009. This K-12 initiative would include all stakeholders within the PSD community. Focus groups include K-12 students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators.
5. Educational and marketing strategies on the "Power of the Transcript: would include but not be limited to: Professional Development for K-12 teachers and administrators; Parent Night presentations by college admissions personnel; information regarding the "Power of the Transcript" published in course registration books and student

handbooks; Parent Group presentations (Parent Forum, PTA, CAC); Guidance Counselor student/parent meetings; Web-site information; utilizing the Student Senate and Student Forum, and the development of a PMN DVD presentation to be utilized by student and parent groups as an educational tool.

## Phase II

1. Evaluation of the impact or any unintended consequences of the changes associated with the elimination of publicly reporting class rank; the 3 tier quality point system; and marketing the "Power of the Transcript."
2. Additions/modifications to our curricular offerings as appropriate (Ex. Honors Level 2 World Language offerings for 2010 - 2011 school year).
3. Continue to investigate alternative methods of calculating the grade point average (GPA).