

5.23.1 - Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Honor Graduates

Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Honor Graduates

VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, HONOR GRADUATES 5.23.1

*Policy 5.23.1 applies to all students beginning with the freshman class of 2015-16.

In an effort to encourage academic excellence and achievement on the part of students throughout the Alexander City School system, the Board directs that each high school principal, with the assistance of appropriate staff members, institute the selection of a valedictorian, salutatorian and honor graduates as a way of appropriately honoring those students who have pursued and attained high academic goals.

Beginning with the freshman class entering in 2015-2016, the top 10 students of the senior class will use a numerical grade point average ranking to determine valedictorians and salutatorians. The student with the highest **numerical** grade point average (nearest ten-thousandth) who qualified for the Alabama High School Diploma with Honors shall be the class valedictorian. The student with the second highest **numerical** grade point average (nearest ten-thousandth) who qualifies for the Alabama High School Diploma with Honors shall be the class salutatorian. In the case of a tie, students having the same average will be recognized as co-valedictorians and/or co-salutatorians. Students must achieve a minimum final average of 80 for each core class and maintain an overall minimum average of 80 in all classes in order to qualify for the Alabama High school diploma with Honors.

The grade point average for graduating students shall be computed on academic course work taken beginning with the freshman year through the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year. In calculating the grade point average, all credit grades for academic courses shall be used.

Candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian must take a minimum of (3) three Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. Courses in AP and Pre-AP will be weighted as follows when calculating grade point averages: A = 5 points, B = 4 points, C = 3 points, and D – 2 points. In the case of transfer students who have AP grades, only those courses recognized as AP by the College Board shall be weighted. No ACCESS grades will be weighted.

The candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian must have been enrolled at the high school for one full school year prior to the date of graduation. The candidates for other end-of-year honors must have been enrolled prior to the beginning of the second term of the senior year.

Honor graduates will be designated based on their status as graduating seniors who qualify for the Alabama High School Diploma with Honors and who have earned an overall grade point average as below:

Cum Laude 3.80 – 3.89

Magna Cum Laude 3.90 – 3.99

Summa Cum Laude 4.00

REFERENCE(S):

CODE OF ALABAMA

16-11-9

HISTORY:

ADOPTED APRIL 21, 2015