

# New London High School Transition to the Laude Recognition System

## Why The Change

New London High School will be moving away from class rank, weighted grades, and the recognition of valedictorian and salutatorian and transitioning to the Laude recognition system beginning with the class of 2024. This change was approved by the New London Board of Education during the 2019-2020 school year after receiving approval from the parent advisory board, student advisory board, teacher leadership team, and instructional committee. We strongly believe this transition better serves the needs of our students and helps us achieve the mission of college and career readiness for ALL students. 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.

## Laude System Overview

Beginning with the Class of 2024, the high school will recognize graduating seniors through the Laude System. The Laude System acknowledges student achievement through a combination of student Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) at the end of seven semesters and the number of honor class points completed in their high school career. Their CGPA and honor points make up their overall Laude score, which places them into one of the possible Laude distinctions: Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude.



### Categories of Distinction

**Cum Laude** (with honor/distinction)  
3.4 GPA and 2-35 Honor Points

**Magna Cum Laude** (with great honor/distinction)  
3.4 GPA and 36-70 Honor Points

**Summa Cum Laude** (with highest honor/distinction)  
3.4 GPA and 71 or more Honor Points

## Benefits of the Laude System Versus the Traditional System

- Recognition of more students
- Supports the mission of college and career readiness
- Eliminates the need for weighted grades
- Motivates students to challenge themselves academically
- Eliminates negative effects and inequality of class rank
- Improves college admissions
- Values all post-secondary courses in all content areas
- Recognizes course rigor and success
- Aligns with Academic and Career Planning and Career Pathways

## Sample Laude Calculations

<b>John Smith</b>			
Cumulative GPA	Laude Points	Total Score	Category of Honor
3.90	7	27.3	Cum Laude

<b>Jane Doe</b>			
Cumulative GPA	Laude Points	Total Score	Category of Honor
3.4	20	68.0	Magna Cum Laude

<b>John Doe</b>			
Cumulative GPA	Laude Points	Total Score	Category of Honor
3.6	25	90	Summa Cum Laude

## Honors Classes

Year-long classes earn 2 points. Semester classes earn 1 point

Animal Science - Dual Credit	Culinary-Dual Credit
AP Calculus AB	Exploration of Electricity/Electronics - Dual Credit
AP Calculus BC	Human Body Systems - PLTW
AP Chemistry	Intro to Entrepreneurship - Dual Credit
AP Computer Science A	Intro to Power Equipment - Dual Credit
AP Computer Science Principles	Introduction to Engineering Design - Dual Credit
AP English Literature and Composition	Introduction to Metalworking - Dual Credit
AP Government	Medical Intervention - PLTW
AP Language	Medical Terminology - Dual Credit
AP Physics	Metal Processing/Production - Dual Credit
AP Psychology	Oral Interpersonal Communications - Dual Credit
AP Statistics	Photography - Certification
AP Studio Art 2-D	Pre-Calculus - Dual Credit
AP Studio Art 3-D	Principles of Biomedical Sciences - PLTW
AP Studio Art Drawing	Principles of Engineering - PLTW
AP U.S History	Spanish IV - Dual Credit
Band/Jazz Band (3 years = 1 Honor PT)	Spanish V- Dual Credit
Biomedical Innovations - PLTW	Welding - Dual Credit
Certified Nursing Assistant	Written Communications - Dual Credit
Choir/Show Choir (3 years = 1 Honor PT)	Youth Apprenticeship
College Math - Dual Credit	2D Drafting and Print Reading - Dual Credit
College Tech Math - Dual Credit	3D Solid Modeling - Dual Credit
Computer Application - Dual Credit	

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What happens to class rank and what if it is needed for scholarships or college admissions?** Class rank would be determined by GPA only, but would not be included on transcripts, report cards, or used for recognition. The school office can provide a student's class rank if requested.
- 2. How will the Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship be determined?** The AES is awarded to the two high school senior students who have the highest grade point average in his or her graduating class. In the event of a tie the senior with the highest composite American College Test (ACT) score. If there is still a tie the highest subscore will be used according to board policy 461.
- 3. How will valedictorian and salutatorian be determined?** Valedictorian and salutatorian will be eliminated. A class speaker will be determined by an application process.
- 4. How are honor classes determined?** Classes that are eligible to receive honor points are those classes that have post-secondary curriculums, rigor, and are eligible for post-secondary credit and/or certification. Band and Choir are the only courses that this does not apply to. Each year a committee is used to determine which courses are eligible.
- 5. How will the Laude System work for transfer students?** A student's transcript will be evaluated for post-secondary credits earned at his or her previous school.
- 6. Does a student need to earn a specific grade in order to receive the honor point?** A student just needs to pass the class in order to receive the honor points.
- 7. How will students be recognized?** Students who fall into the honor level categories will be recognized in local publications, at school recognition programs, and during graduation.
- 8. How will a student and families know their honor points?** Honor points will be shared at the end of each year for all students who earn a 3.4 or higher. Honor points will be kept in the Skyward student management system.