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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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The Board requires that each student successfully complete a graduation project at the end of his/her SENIOR year. Students who do not finish this with a passing evaluation will not graduate.

### **NEW GRADUATION PROJECT DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED**

- The Board requires that each candidate for graduation shall have earned twenty-nine (29) credits. Course requirements for graduation from high school will be the successful completion of credits in the areas listed below:

4.0	Communications
4.5	Social Studies
4.0	Math
4.0	Science
1.0	Computer Applications
2.5	Wellness/Physical Education
2.0	Foreign Language
0.5	Driver's Education
0.5	SAT Prep
<u>6.0</u>	Electives

**TOTAL = 29 CREDITS**

\* *College Prep and Honors curriculum students must take a 2 level sequence of a World Language.*

All identified special education students will satisfactorily complete a special education program I.E.P. (Individualized Education Program).

Certain classes require that a student complete a number of community service hours. The individual teacher will provide details about these projects.

In order to graduate students must score either **proficient** or **advanced** on the state PSSA exams. Those students who do not achieve Advanced or Proficient on the reading and writing exams will be scheduled into Applied Communications 12 for remediation in their senior year. Those students who do not achieve Advanced or Proficient in math have two choices. They can either take and pass a district-designed equivalent math test or take Applied Math Topics for a semester. Passing these remediation classes or the test is a requirement for graduation.

Students attending the Erie County Vo-Tech School receive 2.0 credits for each semester successfully completed at the Tech School and credit substitutions are in effect with Fairview High School and the Vocational School.

**Any student who does not meet the Fairview School District graduation requirements at the time of the graduation ceremony will not be permitted to participate in the graduation proceedings. Students should consult with guidance counselors periodically from 9<sup>th</sup> grade on in order to make certain that they are progressing properly toward graduation.**

**Any student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation when personal conduct so warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. Any money owed to the school such as fines, debts, or restitution for property damage or loss must be paid in advance of in order to participate in the ceremony.**

Guidance counselors will meet with new and transfer students (Grades 9-12) and evaluate work completed in the previous district to determine what credits will be transferred. The high school principal will consider the recommendation of the counselors to determine the number of credits necessary to acquire a Fairview High School diploma.

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## GRADES

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Grades are posted at least weekly on EDLINE and can be seen with a password through our district or high school websites.

SEE FAILING GRADES SECTION in the Student Handbook. Grades are derived from a collection of events that occur within the class during the marking period. These may include class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, writing assignments, projects, presentations, etc. It is the student's responsibility to stay aware of his/her grade point average and respond accordingly to any problems – such as seeking extra help, studying more

diligently or in a different manner, being more thorough in doing and turning in assignments, pertinent deadlines, etc. If the student needs advice in such matters he/she should see the teacher and/or a guidance counselor.

**FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL GRADING CALCULATION**

The percentage classification for grades for all subjects are as follows:

	93 – 100	A
	85 – 92	B
	77 – 84	C
	70 – 76	D
	Below 70	F
Medical	M	
Withdrawal	W	
Pass	P	(For certain courses)

***For each class the teacher will give and record minimally two (2) graded exercises per week – these may be quizzes, tests, homework, in class writing, a project or portion of one, class participation, a speech, etc.***

**Determination of Final Grade for a Single Course**

Below is an explanation and a sample of the high school grading system:

Determination of one (1) one full credit course  
 (18 weeks [a semester]) grade:  
 Multiply each marking period grade X 4.  
 Then, add the final exam percentage grade and divide the TOTAL by 9.

1 <sup>st</sup> MP	2 <sup>nd</sup> MP	FINAL EXAM	
88	92	86	

EXAMPLE:  $(88 \times 4) + (92 \times 4) + 86 = 806 \div 9 = 90$  (=FINAL SEMESTER GRADE)

Determination of .5 credit course (9 weeks) grades:  
 Multiply the *single* marking period grade by eight (8). To this sum add the final exam grade. Divide by nine (9).

1 <sup>st</sup> MP	Final Exam
86	74

EXAMPLE:  $86 \times 8 = 688$   
 $688 + 74 = 762 \div 9 = 85$

NOTE: Grade percentages may require "Rounding off." When this is the case, grades must be at or above .5 of the percentage to be "rounded up." If the decimal is .4 or less – the grade would be "rounded down."

EXAMPLE: 92.5 rounds to 93  
 92.4 rounds to 92

**OTHER POSSIBILITIES:**

Students who come to Fairview for half a day and go to **the Erie County Technical program** the rest of the day FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR:

	1 <sup>st</sup> MP	2 <sup>nd</sup> MP	3 <sup>rd</sup> MP	4 <sup>th</sup> MP	WITH <u>NO FINAL EXAM</u>
EXAMPLE	88	92	84	78	

Calculate simple average – adding all four MPs and dividing by 4.  
 In the example the final grade would be 86.

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE CALCULATION**

Fairview determines its grade point average (GPA) in the following manner:  
 We have *two* possible types of courses: Unweighted and Weighted.

Unweighted courses are calculated using the following scale:  
 A = 4 points B = 3 points C = 2 points D = 1 point F = 0 points  
 (Formula: Grade points divided by credits attempted.)  
 EXAMPLE: Student gets the following grades in a semester:  
 A, A, B, and C =  $4+4+3+2 = 13/4 =$  GPA of 3.25.

Weighted courses (for Honors) are calculated using the following scale:  
A = 5 points B = 4 points C = 2.5 points D = 1 point F = 0 points

Weighted courses (for AP – Advanced Placement) are calculated using the following scale:  
A = 5.25 points B = 4.25 points C = 2.75 points D = 1 point F = 0 points

EXAMPLE: Student gets the following grades in a semester (in which the student has TWO honors courses [italized here] and two unweighted courses): A, A, B, and C =  $5+5+3+2 = 15/4 =$  GPA of 3.75.

Fairview's method of determining Class Rank is discussed in the next section.

Both of the two possible GPA's (weighted and unweighted) are provided on report cards and transcripts.

### CLASS RANK

**Changes have been phased in over the last two years pertaining to class rank with our ultimate plan to do away with a published class rank. What follows below will be the situation for the 2010-2011 school year:**

#### 2011 This year's seniors

*Choice of having class rank on the transcript or N/A. Class rank is now based on weighted GPA for every student (to allow for more flexibility in scheduling). Continue cum laude honors system at graduation. No selection of valedictorian or salutatorian.*

#### All Underclassmen

*Full implementation of the proposal for all underclassmen. N/A is put on all transcripts. No class rank for publication. Private communication as necessary with universities and scholarship officers. Continue cum laude honors system at graduation. No selection of valedictorian or salutatorian.*

1. **There is no published class rank for this year's underclassmen at FHS.** We put N/A on all of their transcripts for the class rank category. All seniors will have two options on their transcripts -- either including the rank or not.
2. **A weighted GPA order is maintained** but FHS *only* gives a student's *position* on that list DIRECTLY to the official sources if they request it. (Note: This allows us to provide a GPA for transfer students too). In the new system A's for an unweighted course are awarded a 4, A's for honors courses are a 5, and A's for AP courses are 5.25. This provides some distinction for the three levels of rigor of studies. (B's would break down as: 3, 4, and 4.25, with the other grades descending accordingly).
3. **A weighted and unweighted GPA will appear** on transcripts and report cards for each semester.
4. **There is no valedictorian / salutatorian honor.** Instead we have instituted a Latin (college style) honors system as follows:
  - Everyone with a 4.6 weighted G.P.A. or higher is a *summa cum laude* distinction. [ NOTE: 5 students among 2008-2009 seniors – also 5 students last year.]
  - Everyone with a G.P.A. of 4.25 – 4.59 is a *magna cum laude* distinction. [ NOTE: 10 students among 2008-2009 seniors]
  - Everyone with a 3.75 – 4.24 is *cum laude* distinction. [ NOTE: 17 students among 2008-2009 seniors]
5. **Anyone attaining a level of *summa cum laude* will be invited to speak at the commencement** ceremony, with an option to decline, and one additional speaker will be selected by students (as has been the practice in the past). (All student speakers must exhibit satisfactory attendance and behavior as determined by the administration).

### **SPECIAL NOTES**

- Any additional classes taken **will be counted** for the student's weighted GPA record. These classes may be college level or not and will be credited accordingly in FHS records. (We are aware that it is possible that taking any extra course on the outside may raise the GPA if the student received an A, but it would also be possible to *lower* the GPA. The change up or down caused by a single course will be small, affecting the score by mere hundredths of a decimal point. We are of the belief that the student who is willing to do the extra work for the purpose of enrichment, and accept the 'risk' of getting a lower grade, should be rewarded in this way. [A student

who wants credit for these additional 'outside' courses must seek approval from the administration in advance so that the course may be entered in our data system].

Juniors will be encouraged to stay at FHS for the core courses. However, 11<sup>th</sup> graders may substitute courses at different locations for FHS core courses (English, Science, Math, and Social Studies). Preapproval is required and an official record of grades must be submitted at the end of the course. The same level of weight (for grades) would be given for like courses. Example: A student who substitutes a U.S. Government and Politics courses at a college campus for FHS' Honors Government and Economics class would receive honors weight for the course – as opposed to AP weight (which is given for college courses for our RCI students).

**Students at FHS must continue to have a minimum of 8 credits per year of courses (with the exception of approved Work Release students).**

- The elimination of Class Rank will allow students to take unweighted courses in an area of interest, such as music, journalism, art and/or receive a B or two in a high school career and still reach the *summa cum laude* distinction (given that a sufficient number of AP and honors courses were taken and good grades maintained in them). We believe we should provide an opportunity for students to investigate some 'non-academic' interests to become more well-rounded – as well as providing for a possible influx of our top students into the fine arts classes.