

It is the policy of this district to have two (2) graduating seniors address the other participants and audience at the commencement ceremony. The student speakers will be selected as follows:

At the end of the 1st semester of students' senior year, beginning with the Class of 2020 and beyond, cumulative GPAs (unweighted, 4.0 scale) will be evaluated. Those students reaching a 3.85 cumulative GPA and higher will be pooled and evaluated for Valedictorian and Salutatorian status. Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined from the following criteria:

1. Highest cumulative GPA
2. Highest ACT/SAT conversion score
3. Number of rigorous high school classes with points deducted for free hours (above and beyond the one allowed each semester), Teacher's Aids (TAs), and Tutors
4. Work Ethic

Rigorous classes will be established by faculty and staff, and a list will be created each year for each graduating class. From the faculty and staff list, graduating seniors will vote for those classes they feel are the most rigorous. A new list of rigorous classes will be developed, and students will be evaluated from the list.

Work Ethic will be voted on by all teachers and administration.

A Valedictorian and Salutatorian Committee will be formed, consisting of two (2) teachers (rotating every year), administration and school counselor. Each student will be ranked with the given criteria above. In the event there is a tie, the committee will evaluate students on the variety of courses taken during their high school career. In the event that another tie occurs, it will be determined that the graduating class may have more than one valedictorian and/or salutatorian.

The student speakers may deliver a personal address of any nature so long as it is appropriate for the circumstances and is not disruptive to the ceremony. The school principal and senior class advisor may establish time periods to limit the length of the student's presentation.

The following statement will be printed on the graduation program for each district school:

The Board of Trustees of School District No. 150 neither promotes nor endorses any statements made by any person involved in the graduation ceremony. Any communication by participants in this graduation ceremony is the private expression of the individual and is not intended to reflect the opinions or beliefs of the District, the Board of Trustees, administration, or other students.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Doe v. Madison School Dist. No. 321, 177 F.3d 789 (9th Cir. 1999)

Santa Fe Independent School Dist. v. Doe, 530 U.S. 290, 120 S. Ct. 2266 (2000)

Alder v. Duval County School Bd., 250 F.3d 1330 (11th Cir. 2001)

ADOPTED: August 15, 2002

AMENDED: May 18th, 2016