

Instruction

Grade Weighting and Class Rank

The New Fairfield School System believes it is necessary and important to provide differentiated quality points for the purpose of weighting its academic course offerings at the high school. Quality points are the weights that are assigned to courses in order to communicate their differing academic challenge. Calculation of the quality points assigned to academic courses multiplied by the grades a student achieves determines a student's Grade Point Average (GPA).

Weights assigned to academic courses communicate the level of academic challenge inherent in each course to students and their parents; therefore, the weights assigned help students to make more appropriate course selections. Additional weights assigned to college preparatory courses recognize that more challenging courses require advanced levels of work; therefore, advanced courses have higher course weights and impact the Grade Point Average accordingly.

~~Beginning with the class of 2003, New Fairfield High School will adopt~~ **has** a two-tiered method for calculating students' Grade Point Averages (GPA). The first tier is the Academic Grade Point Average, which includes **all** grades earned in English, world languages, mathematics, science, social studies, and any honors or Advanced Placement courses. ~~in elective areas.~~ The second tier is the Overall Grade Point Average, which includes unweighted grades in all courses. Academic and Overall Grade Point Averages (GPA) are important ways to communicate a student's academic standing, and all colleges request GPA as part of the college acceptance process.

Advanced Placement courses will be distinguished from honors courses with higher weights, and honors courses will be distinguished from other college preparatory courses with higher weights for the determination of Grade Point Average and class rank. In order to qualify for the higher weight in Advance Placement courses, students must take the appropriate AP test; in addition, students enrolled in semester AP courses are required to complete successfully a teacher-assigned packet prior to the exam to qualify for the higher weight. New Fairfield High School seeks to encourage students to take a wide range of courses from the elective offerings in order to broaden their education, ~~without encountering any negative impact to their Grade Point Averages. For that reason, New Fairfield High School will not weight the majority of its elective course offerings, with the only exceptions being honors and Advanced Placement elective courses.~~

Academic Grade Point Average

Academic Grade Point Average is based on the arithmetic average (total grade points divided by credits taken) of grades earned in English, world languages, mathematics, science, social studies, and any honors or Advanced Placement courses. ~~in elective areas.~~

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<i>Instructional Level</i>	WT	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
AP with Exam	5.00	5.00	4.67	4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	0
Honors/AP without Exam	4.00	4.67	4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0
Level III	3.00	4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0
Level II	2.00	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.33	0
Level I	1.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.33	0.16	0

Independent Study courses are assigned weight after students present their projects to a committee of teachers for assessment. This committee determines how successfully each of the independent Study objectives was met, and a grade and weight are determined at that time, according to standard guidelines and rubrics.

Any students who transfer into the district during high school will have their transcripts evaluated by the guidance department. This evaluation will assign comparable course weights to all transferred courses so that students will not be penalized or advantaged in class rank.

Overall Grade Point Average

An overall GPA will also be calculated based on the unweighted arithmetic average of grades in all courses, using numerical grade values as follows:

A+ = 4.33	B+ = 3.33	C+ = 2.33	D+ = 1.33	F = 0.00
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	
A- = 3.67	B- = 2.67	C- = 1.67	D- = 0.67	

Class Rank

~~Beginning with the school year 2002-2003,~~ New Fairfield High School will report Class Rank annually in deciles (tenths) instead of exact standing Class Rank. Students and colleges will receive Academic and Overall Grade point averages, and a decile rank. Salutatorian and valedictorian will be calculated at the completion of senior year using the Academic Grade point average as criteria.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.A. 99-81 An Act Concerning Weighted Grading for Honors Classes

Policy adopted: June 11, 2001
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NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 New Fairfield, Connecticut