

Instruction

Grading/Assessment Systems/Weighted Grades

It is the philosophy of the Derby Public Schools that students respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. The Derby Schools seeks, therefore, through learner objectives and its instructional program, to make achievement both recognizable and possible for students. Achievement will be emphasized in the process of evaluating student performance.

Evaluation of student progress is a primary responsibility of the teacher. The highest possible level of student achievement is a common goal of both school and home. A close working relationship between home and school is essential to the accomplishment of this goal. Regular communication with parents or guardians, utilizing a variety of means, about the scholastic progress of their student is a basic component of this working relationship. It is the responsibility of the school and individual staff members to keep parents or guardians well informed.

Regularly used report cards, combined with scheduled parent-teacher conferences, and other communication vehicles helps promote a process of continuous evaluation of student performance.

The grading and reporting systems as developed by the administration and faculty are subject to the approval of the Superintendent and/or Board of Education.

The Derby Board of Education shall approve the grading and reporting systems as developed by the administration and faculty and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

Weighted Grades

The curriculum contains a wide variety of courses at various levels of academic challenge. Students are allowed considerable choice and are encouraged to strive for academic excellence. A system of grade weighting recognizes the differences in student achievement. Grade weighting encourages and rewards students for selecting courses at more challenging levels of difficulty.

A grade weighting/class ranking system shall be implemented for the high school in accordance with the guidelines set forth and published annually in the high school parent/student handbook.

Parents and students shall be advised annually, via the school's parent/teacher handbook, of this position and the specifics of the weighted grading program.

Rank In Class

Rank in class will be determined by adding up the grades for all courses and dividing by the number of credits.

For rank in class purposes only, three percentage points will be added to the number resulting from the conversion from letter grades to numerical grades for all courses designated "honors" and for all advanced placement courses. Subject to the Principal's approval, every department will select those courses which deserve an "honors" designation.

Full-time Dual Enrollment students and students on school approved Acceleration Plans will be eligible for this recognition when they are included in the class rank and meet the membership requirements.

In calculating the Valedictorian for the graduating class, the student with the highest weighted GPA after seven (7) semesters will be the Valedictorian. In the event that a three (3) year graduation plan student has the same or higher weighted GPA as the four (4) year graduation plan student, the student(s) will be classified as Co-Valedictorian(s).

In calculating the Salutatorian for the graduating class, the second highest weighted GPA after (7) semesters will be the Salutatorian. In the event that a three (3) year graduation plan student has the same or higher weighted GPA as the four (4) year graduation plan student, the students will be classified as Co-Salutatorians.

Weighted Quality Points

- A. Independent Study shall be an unweighted course.
- B. A student's transfer grades from other schools shall be evaluated by the Principal or his designee in accordance with the established criteria so that all grades will be included in the student's quality point average.

(cf. [5124](#) - Reporting to Parents)

(cf. [6141.5](#) - Advanced College Placement)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-220g](#) Policy on weighted grading for honors and advanced placement classes

Policy adopted: September 21, 2017

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