

February 8, 2019

Dear Students, Parents and/or Guardians:

Changes to the criteria for Cum Laude Graduation Honors and additional weighted courses were included in the high school course enrollment book for the 2019-2020 school year. The proposed changes were made by the committee comprised of administrators, counselors, teachers and also included parent representation. The intended changes were made to help support students taking rigorous coursework and provide more opportunities for weighted grades.

Following the dissemination of the course enrollment books, several questions were raised regarding this implementation plan. We appreciate the feedback regarding this issue. It was never the intent for students to have a potential academic disadvantage due to the proposed changes, so the High School Cum Laude Committee met to specifically review the changes in light of the questions and concerns raised.

After thoroughly discussing the issues, it was determined that the following changes would be implemented:

- *Cum Laude Graduation Requirements:*
 - *The graduating classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022 will remain under the current Cum Laude Graduation Honors requirements. No changes will be made.*
 - *The NEW Cum Laude Graduation Honors requirements will be implemented with the graduating class 2023 (incoming freshmen).*
- *Weighted Credit:*
 - *Starting in 2019-20, all students in grades 9-12 will be eligible for weighted credit for any of the courses (including newly weighted courses) designated in the table below.*
- *Class Rank:*
 - *Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, our school district will no longer utilize class rank in order to eliminate unnecessary and potentially unhealthy competition among students. Student recognition and honors will be based upon the Cum Laude Graduation Honors system.*

Thank you again for providing feedback on this issue. Should you have any further questions regarding this issue or how it may impact your child, please feel free to contact his/her guidance counselor.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Scott Voelkl
Principal
St. Charles West High School*

Clarification for Weighted Courses

| AP | PLTW | Dual Credit | CAPS | Lewis and Clark | World Language | *Honors | *Gifted |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| AP Government and Politics | PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design | College Composition and Literature | Technology Solutions | Early Childhood | French 4 German 4 Spanish 4 | Honors English 1 | Gifted English 1 |
| AP Physics | PLTW AP Computer Science Principles | College US History | Healthcare Academy | Health Related Occupations | | Honors English 2 | Gifted English 2 |
| AP Music Theory | PLTW Principles of Engineering | | Global Business/Entrepreneurship | Computer Maintenance | | Honors US History | |
| AP Spanish 5 | PLTW Computer Science Essentials | *College Algebra | | | | Honors Geometry | |
| AP English Language and Composition | PLTW Principles of Biomedical Science | | | | | Honors Algebra 2 | |
| AP Calculus | PLTW Human Body Systems | | | | | Honors Pre-Calculus | |
| AP German 5 | *PLTW Medical Interventions | | | | | Honors Biology | |
| AP World History | *PLTW Civil Engineering and Architecture | | | | | Honors Chemistry | |
| AP Biology | *PLTW AP Computer Science A | | | | | Honors Physics | |
| AP European History | | | | | | | |
| AP Chem/Lab | | | | | | | |
| AP Studio Art | | | | | | | |
| AP French 5 | | | | | | | |
| *AP Statistics | | | | | | | |

*Denotes new weighted courses for 2019-20 school year.