

OUR LAUDE SYSTEM POLICY

This system replaces the class rank system. Class rank will not be provided to colleges for admissions purposes. The transcript will report the student's cumulative GPA with an accompanying Laude point score/distinction. A cover letter will be provided to the colleges explaining our Laude System. This point-based system is combined with the cumulative GPA. It rewards students for completing designated courses by enabling students to earn points for certain classes.

CUM LAUDE OR HIGHER PLACEMENT:

Students must meet two criteria to earn Laude distinction:

1. Cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher
2. 4 or more Laude Points

CUM LAUDE - WHITE CORD (with honor/distinction):

Laude Score of 13.6 - 19.00

MAGNA CUM LAUDE - GREY CORD (with great honor/distinction):

Laude Score of 19.01- 28.79

SUMMA CUM LAUDE - BLUE CORD (with highest honor/distinction):

Laude Score of 28.8+

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP:

Refer to language spelled out in Board Policy 5451.01

GRADUATION SPEAKERS:

Two seniors will be allowed to speak during the graduation ceremony:

Valedictorian will have first choice along with the student with the highest Laude Score. If one or neither want to speak, staff will select a senior(s) who wants to speak from the highest Laude Score group based on leadership, service & character, and academics.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF LAUDE COURSES:

♦ Early College Credit Program (semester class at a 4-year college/university)	0.75
♦ Start College Now (semester class at a 2-year technical college)	0.5
♦ English 101/ English 150 (0.75 each)	1.5
♦ Oral Comm/Written Comm (0.5 each)	1
♦ AP Calc	1.5
♦ AP Pre-Calculus	1.5
♦ Welding Math/Welding Geometry (0.5 each)	1
♦ Statistics.....	1
♦ AP Biology	1.5
♦ Physics (Both classes need to be taken)	1
♦ Chemistry 2.....	1.5
♦ AP US History	1.5
♦ AP Computer Science	1.5
♦ Accounting 1 and 2 (each 1 point) (TC)	1
♦ Microsoft Office Suite (TC).....	0.5
♦ With 2 certifications	0.25
♦ Microsoft Specialist	0.25
♦ Spanish 3.....	0.5
♦ Spanish 4	1
♦ Spanish 202	1.5
♦ Art (Completion of Art Dept Requirements)	1
♦ Music –Band or Choir (Completion of Band/Choir Requirements, each 1 point)	1
♦ Intro to Welding and Safety (TC)	1
♦ Related Welding (TC)	1
♦ Youth Apprenticeship (1 per year)	1

LAUDE POINT SYSTEM- (CUMULATIVE GPA × # OF LAUDE POINTS= LAUDE SCORE) Number of Laude Points

	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80
3.9	15.6	19.5	23.4	27.3	31.2	35.1	39	42.9	46.8	50.7	54.6	58.5	62.4	66.3	70.2	74.1	78
3.8	15.2	19	22.8	26.6	30.4	34.2	38	41.8	45.6	49.4	53.2	57	60.8	64.6	68.4	72.2	76
3.7	14.8	18.5	22.2	25.9	29.6	33.3	37	40.7	44.4	48.1	51.8	55.5	59.2	62.9	66.6	70.3	74
3.6	14.4	18	21.6	25.2	28.8	32.4	36	39.6	43.2	46.8	50.4	54	57.6	61.2	64.8	68.4	72
3.5	14	17.5	21	24.5	28	31.5	35	38.5	42	45.5	49	52.5	56	59.5	63	66.5	70
3.4	13.6	17	20.4	23.8	27.2	30.6	34	37.4	40.8	44.2	47.6	51	54.4	57.8	61.2	64.6	68

WHY LAUDE?

The purpose of the Laude System is to recognize students for the rigor of their academic program as well as their success in that program.

The shortcomings of high school class rank are enough to make its statistical use questionable. Through the Laude System, we can provide post secondary schools with documented information regarding students' academic standing without jeopardizing their chance of admission.

WILL COLLEGES ACCEPT THIS SYSTEM?

Yes. Without the indicator of rank, admissions officers will need to look closer at applicants and consider the following:

- ◆ Rigor of Curriculum
- ◆ Test Scores
- ◆ Recommendations
- ◆ High School Record
- ◆ Talents & Activities
- ◆ Personal Essays
- ◆ Other Qualifying Factors

The Laude System allows students to be evaluated based on the above factors. Many schools who use Laude report higher college acceptance rates.

WAYS THIS HELPS STUDENTS:

Hilbert High School is using the Laude System to have a more equitable system in line with preparing students for the rigor and expectations beyond high school. It also allows for the ability to recognize more students and their academic accomplishments.

CONCLUSION:

"High schools must find a way to make colleges look beyond a student's class rank and make them more aware of student achievements and future potential." (advice from College Board) This system gives colleges a clearer picture of a student's academic rigor/achievement.

FACTS:

- ① The Laude System is being used by many high schools as an alternative to class rank. Laude allows students to be evaluated on their rigor of course work, grades, and test scores. Students can receive points based upon the courses they take and their cumulative GPA.
- ② The Laude System allows students to take a variety of classes in many different content areas. Students can attain Laude points based on their performance and rigor of their courses. Students are then examined by their individual performance and given a Laude score based on their courses and cumulative GPA.
- ③ Cumulative GPA may include courses from other educational organizations/high schools whose grading policies are not in alignment with ours. The Laude System is being used more universally and for students who transfer in from other systems, appropriate points can be assigned to their course. Since this is a system that benefits the individual student, all students are eligible to earn Laude points.
- ④ Although admission offices frequently use rank as a marker for admission, rank is never entirely reliable. Grade changes for one student affect the entire class and the number of students in the class is fluid. Both of these factors make class rank less reliable. By moving away from rank, we are causing admissions offices to take a closer look at the academic classes, student performance, and their involvement.
- ⑤ Many schools that have changed to the Laude System are reporting higher standardized test scores since students are taking higher level classes and not worried about class rank.

Hilbert High School

"Home of the Wolves"



The Laude System
2024-2025

Hilbert High School

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