

Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent/Guardian Involvement

5413 *Senior Recognition*

The District will recognize the outstanding achievement of its graduating seniors in the following manner:

Date adopted: September 7, 2023

Date revised:

Yale Public Schools

Top Scholar Process

Over the last few years, Yale Public Schools staff, students, and parents have discussed ways to modify our academic recognition process for Yale High School students and graduates. This came as a result of wanting to raise the academic bar and ensuring that students receiving this recognition have taken the most rigorous classes that will prepare them for their college or career path. After much discussion, debate, and draft solutions, the Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt a new process to recognize our top students or 'scholars'. Beginning with the graduating class of 2026, students that would like to be honored as our top students will have to take 50% of the honors, advanced, or advanced placement (AP) classes listed below:

Junior & Senior Year

- AP Calculus
- Calculus
- Advanced Physics II- (Semester Class)
- Honors Chemistry II- (Semester Class)
- Anatomy/Physiology
- Honors Social Studies III
- ED 101 (Concurrent Enrollment w/SC4)- (Semester Class)
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- AP English Language
- AP Art
- AP English Literature
- AP Environmental Science
- Trigonometry
- Honors Social Studies II
- Physics

Sophomore Year

- ADV English II
- Honors Government- (Semester Class)
- Honors Microeconomics- (Semester Class)

Freshman Year

- ADV English I
- Honors Social Studies I

Of the classes that the student elects to take, the classes must be completed (with a final grade earned) in order to be considered for the top scholar honor. The student(s) with the highest grade point average (GPA) will be honored as top scholars. If a student is unable to take 50% of these classes due to limited offerings related to staffing or other circumstances, a student can submit a letter of appeal to the Yale High School counselors by December of the school year that they are graduating.

Behavior Code of Conduct Violations- No major infractions that require suspension beyond one (1) day.

*If dual enrollment is taken, students that would like to be considered for top scholar must take these approved classes for a grade.

Summary of Changes- Top Scholar, Honor Roll, Board of Education Dinner

The valedictorian and salutatorian recognition will remain in place for the 2024 & 2025 classes. Graduates interested in providing a commencement address will

submit their speech to the Yale High School faculty for review and selection of the speech(es) that will be shared at commencement.

Beginning in 2026, students will be recognized with the ‘top scholar’ recognition by meeting the criteria listed above (50% of the honors or advanced classes must be taken). Top scholars replace the Val/Sal system.

Completion of 50% or more of the advanced classes offered is required in order to be considered for ‘top scholar’ recognition. Students must earn a final grade in the class and not ‘drop’ before earning a final grade.

Dual enrollment classes that a student takes must be approved classes with a grade rather than credit only option.

The Board of Education Recognition Dinner will be reserved for students that have earned a 3.61 gpa or higher in a given year.

Honor Roll will move to the Laude system for all students effectively this year (2023-2024).

3.3-3.6 Cum Laude (Honor Roll, Recognition in Paper)

3.61-3.89 Magna Cum Laude (Honor Roll, Recognition in Paper, BOE Recognition Dinner)

3.9-4.0 Summa Cum Laude (Honor Roll, Recognition in Paper, BOE Recognition Dinner)