

Latin Honors (Cum Laude)

Parkway School District does not rank students within their class but uses the Latin Honors, or Cum Laude system. Instead of assigning a specific number to students as ranked against their peers, the Cum Laude system categorizes the students for the following academic accomplishments:

Summa Cum Laude: Students with grade point average of 4.0 and above, gold honor's cord

Magna Cum Laude: Students with grade point average of 3.75–3.99, silver honor's cord

Cum Laude: Students with grade point average of 3.5–3.749, orange honor's cord

Because of our use of the Cum Laude system, we do not provide class rank data or percentile.

Per advisement from college and scholarship representatives, if an application asks for your student's class rank, these sections should be completed as follows:

Rank: 0 Total # in Class: 0 (0/0)

To further help answer some of your concerns, the following Q&A was created by Parkway School District to answer commonly asked questions:

Why does Parkway use the *Latin Cum Laude System*?

Students will not have to be anxious about ranking in the "top 10" in order to receive academic recognition. They are also able to take courses that are related to their career paths even if they are not honors or AP classes.

Are there other schools in the area that recognize students by using the Cum Laude System?

Yes....Clayton, Francis Howell, Hazelwood, Ladue, Rockwood, Webster Groves, Principia, Incarnate Word Academy, Lutheran North, Lutheran South, Wentzville, and St. Charles School District.

What are some of the reasons these schools do not use class rank?

Some reasons were students have an advantage when competing for scholarships, wanting to reward more students for their efforts, to be consistent with surrounding districts, parents urged the district to take a look at current ranking for recognizing graduates, wanted students to explore an array of courses without fear of reprisal, etc.

What affect will this have on admission to colleges and universities?

None. After polling selective to highly selective colleges and universities, including Washington University, Vanderbilt, University of Missouri – Columbia, University of Chicago, Princeton University, Harvard University, St. Louis University, and Purdue University, it was unanimous that eliminating class rank would not impact admission. Majority of the directors of admission stated that they recalculated the grade point averages, consider the rigor of courses taken, time spent in and out of school on extra-curricular activities, letters of recommendation, written essays and person statements, leadership skills, and test scores.

Will Parkway School District recognize a Valedictorian of the class?

No. The competition for first place in the class could prohibit students from pursuing courses that are aligned with their career choice since some of these courses may not be honors or AP.