

# Weighting Grades

MBUSD Board of Trustees  
May 20, 2015

# Timeline of Grade Weighting Discussion

- **February 4**: Parents speak at board meeting about grade weighting. Board forms subcommittee.
- Subcommittee of teachers, parents, counselors, private experts, administrators and board members research and discuss over three meetings.
- **April 1**: Board Workshop on Grading. Board Directs Superintendent to make recommendation on May 20.
- Additional meetings with MCHS EdCouncil and Weighting Subcommittee.
- **May 20**: Recommendation for Grade Weighting

# Weighting in College Admissions Not a Problem

- These decisions are typically made in the Financial Aid rather than Admissions departments
- Using Naviance data since 2009, MCHS CCC counselors assessed the 77 schools MCHS students apply to most . . .
- **None** of the schools reported that students from high schools who do or do not weight grades are at any advantage or disadvantage

# A Few Merit Scholarships Practices Have Created a Problem

- These decisions are typically made in the University's Financial Aid department rather than Admissions departments
- Using Naviance data since 2009, MCHS CCC counselors assessed the 77 schools MCHS students apply to most . . .
- Of those that offered merit awards, **eight (8)** universities responded that they do not recalculate for merit decisions, and that practice *may* impact student eligibility.

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# Proposal #1

## I. AP Courses – 5.0 scale

- Pre-requisites will list required course for admission, the requirement of a grade of C or better in the pre-requisite course for admission, and a recommended grade in the prerequisite course for success in the desired AP course. No more waivers.

## II. Senior Capstone Courses – 5.0 scale

- Advanced Model UN (MUN)
- Advanced Broadcast Journalism (MMN)
- Advanced Ceramic Arts
- Advanced Choral Music (Choir)
- Advanced Dance

- Advanced Drama
- Advanced Instrumental Music (Band)
- Advanced Journalism (La Vista)
- Advanced Orchestra
- Advanced Photography
- Advanced Publishing (Yearbook)

## III. Discontinuation of Valedictorian/Salutatorian designation with the class of 2016. Instead . . .

- Summa Cum Laude – 4.0 and above (weighted)
- Magna Cum Laude – 3.75 to 3.99 (weighted)
- Cum Laude – 3.5 to 3.74 (weighted)

## IV. Class rankings will be released to universities and colleges based on quartiles only.

# Proposal #2

## I. AP Courses – 5.0 scale

- Pre-requisites will list required course for admission, the requirement of a grade of C or better in the prerequisite course for admission, and a recommended grade of a B in the prerequisite course for success in the desired AP course. No more waivers.

## II. Weight UC-Approved Honors Courses in areas where there is no AP course on a 5.0 Scale

Applicable courses: Honors Music Performance Ensemble.

## III. Discontinuation of Valedictorian/Salutatorian

- Beginning with the class of 2016, the new designations will follow the university model and will be listed in the commencement program:
- Summa Cum Laude : 4.0 and above (weighted)
- Magna Cum Laude: 3.90 to 3.99 (weighted)
- Cum Laude: 3.75 to 3.99 (weighted)

**IV. Class rankings** will be released to universities/colleges based on quartiles only.

# Proposal #3

## I. AP Courses – 5.0 scale

### II. Prerequisites

Students must earn a weighted 3.0 grade or better in the prerequisite course(s). Students who do not earn a 3.0 or better (weighted) in the prerequisite course(s) may apply for a waiver as per Board Policy 6141.5.

### III. Discontinuation of Valedictorian/ Salutatorian:

- Summa Cum Laude: 4.0 and above (weighted)
- Magna Cum Laude: 3.80 to 3.99 (weighted)
- Cum Laude: 3.50 to 3.79 (weighted)

**IV. Class rankings** will be released to universities/colleges based on quartiles only.

*If passed by the Board, this policy would become effective beginning in the 2015-16 school year. Students would receive weighted credit for applicable courses already taken.*

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