

LATIN HONORS SYSTEM

Beginning with the 2017-2018 freshman class, students scheduled to graduate in 2021 and thereafter, the traditional valedictorian and salutatorian honors will be replaced by the Latin honors system, which grants students summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude titles based on their grade point average. This allows students who earn at or above a clearly defined cumulative GPA are recognized for their academic achievement.

These changes are meant to further encourage students to challenge themselves in high school. Student course selection should have rigor but should also include non-weighted courses that match with their interests and post-secondary goals. Having a practice that would subtly encourage some students to avoid non-weighted courses would oppose what postsecondary institutions are looking for. Colorado Springs School District 11 (the District) encourages students to enroll in and excel in a balanced course-load that interests and prepares them for postsecondary pursuits.

Latin Honor System – GPA Based and Tiered

Honor ranking is based upon the following three tiers:

- Summa cum laude (with highest honor): 4.10+ GPA
- Magna cum laude (with great honor): 3.90 GPA
- Cum laude (with honor): 3.75 GPA

Additional pertinent information regarding the Latin Honor System

- Academic letters may be awarded to students who have earned a 3.75 or above grade point average for two consecutive semesters. After the letter is earned, students can earn a bar by again earning a 3.75 or above grade point average for another two consecutive semesters.
- Pass/fail grades are not factored into GPA.
- Homeschool students are not eligible for Honors distinction without 12+ credits attained through the District.
- Transfers into a District school are eligible for the Latin Honor System if documented transcripts are available, verified by the school site registrar, and approved by the Principal or their designee.
- Senior speakers will be selected through processes developed at each high school.

Adopted May 31, 2017

CROSS REFS.: IKC, Class Rankings/Grade Point Averages
IKC-R-1, Class Rankings/Grade Point Averages (Beginning with the
2017/2018 Freshman Class/2021 Graduates and Thereafter)
IKC-R-3, Class Rankings/Grade Point Averages (For Students
Graduating in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020)