

Notification of Change to PHS Honor System

Starting with the Class of 2025, PHS will honor students based on their GPA. Typically known as the Latin honor system, students that have a 3.5 cumulative weighted GPA and above will be honored at graduation. The different recognitions include Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude. These designations replace Top 10, High Honor Roll, and Honor Roll.

Summa Cum Laude has a GPA of 3.900 and above, Magna Cum Laude is 3.700 to 3.899 and Cum Laude is 3.500 to 3.699.

For example, in looking at the Class of 2024, 10 students would have received Summa Cum Laude honors, 13 students would have received Magna Cum Laude honors, and 10 students would have received Cum Laude Honors. This will allow us to recognize more of our students' academic achievements.

Why did PHS decide to make this change? Starting in 2018, the State of Illinois made it illegal to put a class rank on any official school form or transcript. The Top 10 also only recognizes 10 students for their academic achievement. Students competing for the Top 10 are being limited in exploring courses that they are interested in and/or may help them in their career choice because they are concerned with maintaining their class rank.

Any student who achieves the Summa Cum Laude honor has the opportunity to submit a speech that could be read during the graduation ceremony. Speeches will be judged by a committee that will select 2-3 speeches to be read during the graduation ceremony.

PHS Honors System

Latin Honor	Summa Cum Laude	Magna Cum Laude	Cum Laude
Meaning	"With highest distinction"	"With great distinction"	"With distinction"
Honor Level	1st	2nd	3rd
GPA	3.9 to 4.0	3.7 to 3.899	3.5 to 3.699

* Beginning with the class of 2025