

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School Laude System

Academic Excellence Recognition

Beginning with the class of 2020, the Laude System will replace the current class rank system. The Laude System is a point-based system utilizing a student's unweighted grade point average along with the number of semesters of advanced coursework (laude honor courses). To earn the highest honors, Summa Cum Laude, a student must earn both the indicated range of points in the Laude System as well as earn a 26 or higher on the ACT.

Student will earn one point per semester for designated Laude courses (as indicated on the following chart). Students must also successfully pass and complete a class to receive the designated honor points.

Students will be eligible for the Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Cum Laude recognition by *multiplying their grade point average at the end of the first semester senior year (after 7 semesters) times the total number of Laude Course points earned.*

Example:

Semesters of Laude Honors Courses (total points): 23

Cumulative GPA: 3.67

Total: 84.41

Laude Recognition = Magna Cum Laude (great honor)

Levels of Honor/Distinction

- **Cum Laude** (with honor/distinction): 19.2 - 55.5
- **Magna Cum Laude** (with great honor/distinction): 56 - 87.4
- **Summa Cum Laude** (with highest honor/distinction): 88 - 128, ACT Composite score 26 +

* If a student earns Summa Cum Laude standing but fails to meet the 26 ACT Composite cut score, he/she will be recognized with Magna Sum Laude Honor/Distinction

Laude Matrix:

		Grade Point Average								
Honor Points	GPA	4	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2
	32	128	124.8	121.6	118.4	115.2	112	108.8	105.6	102.4
	31	124	120.9	117.8	114.7	111.6	108.5	105.4	102.3	99.2
	30	120	117	114	111	108	105	102	99	96
	29	116	113.1	110.2	107.3	104.4	101.5	98.6	95.7	92.8
	28	112	109.2	106.4	103.6	100.8	98	95.2	92.4	89.6
	27	108	105.3	102.6	99.9	97.2	94.5	91.8	89.1	86.4
	26	104	101.4	98.8	96.2	93.6	91	88.4	85.8	83.2
	25	100	97.5	95	92.5	90	89.5	85	82.5	80
	24	96	93.6	91.2	88.8	86.4	84	81.6	79.2	79.2
	23	92	89.7	87.4	85.1	82.8	80.5	78.2	75.9	73.6
	22	88	85.8	83.6	81.4	79.2	77	74.8	72.6	70.4
	21	84	81.9	79.8	77.7	75.6	73.5	71.4	69.3	67.2
	20	80	78	76	74	72	70	68	66	64
	19	76	74.1	72.2	70.3	68.4	66.5	64.6	62.7	60.8
	18	72	70.2	68.4	66.6	64.8	63	61.2	59.4	57.6
	17	68	66.3	64.6	62.9	61.2	59.5	57.8	56.1	54.4
	16	64	62.4	60.8	59.2	59.6	56	54.4	52.8	51.2
	15	60	58.5	57	55.5	54	52.5	51	49.5	48
	14	56	54.6	53.2	51.8	50.4	49	47.6	46.2	44.8
	13	52	50.7	49.4	48.1	46.8	45.5	44.2	42.9	41.6
	12	48	46.8	45.6	44.4	43.2	42	40.8	39.6	38.4
	11	44	42.9	41.8	40.7	39.6	38.5	37.4	36.3	35.2
	10	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32
9	36	35.1	34.2	33.3	32.4	31.5	30.6	29.7	28.8	
8	32	31.2	30.4	29.6	28.8	28	27.2	26.4	25.6	
7	28	27.3	26.6	25.9	25.2	24.5	23.8	23.1	22.4	
6	24	23.4	22.8	22.2	21.6	21	20.4	19.8	19.2	
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Summa Cum Laude	88 - 128 Laude Points, ACT Composite 26+
Magna Cum Laude	56 - 87.4 Laude Points
Cum Laude	19.2 - 55.5 Laude Points

Laude Honors Courses: 1.0 laude point per semester for each course completed and passed. 2.0 laude points per year-long course completed and passed.

Department	Laude Courses
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large Animal Science (1)
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advanced Art (1 per semester)
Business/Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Web Design 1 (1) ● Accounting 1 (2) ● Accounting 2/Quickbooks (1) ● Introduction to Programming: Game Simulation (1) ● Introduction to Business (1) ● Math with Business Apps (1)
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English 11 CP (2) ● Written Communications (1) ● Comm 133 (1) ● College Writing for Seniors (1) ● AP English Literature (2)
Family and Consumer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nutrition (1)
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● College Algebra (2) ● Precalculus (2) ● AP Probability and Statistics (2) ● AP Calculus (2)
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3rd year (2) ● 4th year (2)
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chemistry (2) ● AP Biology (2) ● Physics I (1), Physics II (1) ● Human Anatomy and Physiology (2)
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Psychology (2) ● AP United States History (2) ● AP Government and Politics (2)
Technology Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Welding (1) ● Mechanical Drafting (1) ● Architectural Drafting (1) ● Furniture Manufacturing (2) ● Construction Methods (2)
World Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spanish III (2) ● AP Spanish (IV CP) (2)
Other (Erving courses, youth option courses, other courses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medical Terminology (1) ● Thinking Critically and Creatively (1) ● Introduction to Health Careers (1) ● Health Careers Pathway (2) ● Early Childhood Education Pathway (2)

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CAPP Elementary/Secondary Education (1) ● Certified Nursing Assistant (2) ● EMT Certification (1) |
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Note: The Laude honors courses will be reviewed yearly by the Learning Council upon completion of the schedule. Courses may be added to the list or taken off the list based on yearly offerings.

Grading Scale:

To ensure a consistent grading scale in all academic areas, the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School will adopt a common grading scale for all courses starting fall of 2016.

Letter Grade	Percent Grade
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	65-66
F	Below 65

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions):

How will students with Laude Honor/Distinction be recognized?

Upon graduation (based on completion of the 7th semester) students will be recognized for earning Laude standing in the following manner:

- **Cum Laude:** White Honors Cords
- **Magna Cum Laude:** Gold Honors Cords
- **Summa Cum Laude:** Gold Honors Cords, Academic Honors Medallion

Will colleges accept this system?

Yes – Colleges do recognize the Laude System; however, they also consider the following: rigor of curriculum, test scores, recommendations, high school record, talents and activities, personal essays, and other mitigating factors. Based on the information we have gathered from other schools who have moved away from class rank, the resounding answer is that it will help. This system will allow colleges to look beyond class rank and take a closer look at a student's full body of work. Schools using this system have observed a higher acceptance rate to colleges and especially to the more competitive colleges.

How will graduation speakers be decided?

With the change in this academic excellence recognition system, we will no longer be using the valedictorian or salutatorian awards. The class president will do one speech. Students earning the Summa Cum Laude distinction will qualify for the remaining two graduation speaker positions. This group of students will be asked if they are interested in speaking. If they are, they will be placed on a ballot and voted on by the high school faculty.

Can I earn honor point for courses I completed at another school?

Transfer students will receive honor points toward the Laude System for Advanced Placement courses passed and completed at their previous school. Due to the varying nature of how honors classes are designated in other schools, honors classes besides Advanced Placement will not be granted to transfer students for honor point toward the Laude System. Any disagreements are subject to the standard appeal process through the chain of command up to the Board of Education.

Why the change?

Class rank compares student's performance to that of his or her peers. Since not every student takes identical classes during their high school career, the validity of class rank is inaccurate.

With class rank, a student is not in control of his or her own recognition for their performance. Rather, a student's ranking is dependant upon other's academic performance in courses that may not be as competitive as others.

Our students are compromising their learning and experiences based on the competitive nature of the 4.0 class ranking system. Rather than taking courses that best meet their post secondary plan, they choose courses less rigorous in fear of compromising the 4.0. The Laude System honors rigor and academic success making the risk less impactful on the previous system.

This system will provide incentive for students to challenge themselves to participate in high-level courses and better prepare themselves for post-secondary educational opportunities.

What about scholarships? Most scholarships emphasize class rank.

We will inform our scholarship benefactors of the change, educate them within the next three years so that they can make the proper adjustments to scholarship criteria in effort to honor this academic recognition change.

Who will keep track of these points?

Our staff will be responsible for keeping track of Laude points. It will also be important for families to keep track so that each students is clear on the number of Laude courses they have taken and plan to take in the future in order to reach their desired goal. Course lists will be updated yearly based on offerings within and outside our school.

