

## CLASS RANK:

Beginning with the Class of 2022, Virginia Beach City Public Schools will use a Latin Honors system to recognize students' academic achievement instead of reporting traditional class rank. This mirrors the way most colleges signify academic success. For college applications, a student's individual grade point average (GPA) and class percentile will be reported. For example, a student may have a 3.8 GPA and be in the top 20% of his class.

### WHY CHANGE?

The switch to a Latin Honors System was prompted by a School Board desire to ensure that all students had equal opportunity to be recognized for their individual achievement. Some students and parents expressed concern that students enrolled in select academic programs had access to additional weighted courses that their peers did not. This made it mathematically challenging for students who were not enrolled in academy or advanced academic programs to become the valedictorian or salutatorian based on their class rank, even with grade point averages exceeding 4.0. For example, in one school, the highest non-academy student rank was 35.



Class rank is no longer a key factor for many colleges and universities. According to college admission offices, more emphasis is instead put on students' individual grades and GPAs, the rigor of coursework taken in high school and their participation in extracurricular activities and community service opportunities.



# 55%

More than 55 percent of high schools nationwide have moved away from class rank (*including, for example, Fairfax County Public Schools and Albemarle County Public Schools*). VBCPS would be the first school division in Hampton Roads to do so.

### CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The Superintendent, working in collaboration with high school principals and students, will develop a way to formally acknowledge graduates, including the student(s) with the highest GPA. In addition, beginning with the Class of 2022, the following Latin Honors designations will be used to distinguish academic achievement for graduating seniors:

Latin Honors Designation	Earned Grade Point Average (GPA)
Honor Graduate	3.0 or higher
Cum Laude	3.5 - 3.75
Magna Cum Laude	3.76 - 3.99
Summa Cum Laude	4.0 and above



### WHAT AN HONOR!

Graduates earning a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher have been recognized as Honor Graduates in Virginia Beach City Public Schools since 1969. Eliminating class rank will not change that practice.