

## Val & Sal Proposal

This is a proposal for discussion and consideration as a potential change in the way these honors are achieved. Today only 2 students are honored and it is very subjective to the cohorts of the graduating class. In one year, you can have a student with an average over 100 not receive any distinction and another year a student with a 96 average as Val. The question is, **should be honors with marks that are obtainable by the achievement of the student?**

There is a new trend around the country to adopt new philosophies with respect to high school graduation honors, especially in today's challenging AP/IB environment and the highly competitive college application process. A change would also help **address the communities' desire to see hard work by the students recognized during senior programs and at graduation**, and should also **motivate the student to finish strong** in an attempt to obtain said recognition. A change in the process would also **bring a more consistent level of recognition from year to year.**

Below are a couple of suggestions for option:

1. Multiple Vals & Sals
  - a. Chose a range for Val & Sal. As an example: Val  $\geq$  98 & Sal  $\geq$  96
  - b. Highest GPA would be Super Val
  - c. All other Vals would submit speech for chance to give it at graduation
  - d. If no one obtains the designated Val GPA, the highest GPA becomes the only VAL
2. Similar Val & Sal concept, add Latin distinctions
  - a. Keep Val and Sal to highest GPAs but cut down significant digits to 1 decimal point
    - i. Opens up possibility of multiple of either recognition, but with the numeric scale, no child should be denied when GPAs are that close.
  - b. Introduce the Laude distinction. As an example
    - i. Cum Laude  $\geq$  92
    - ii. Magna Cum Laude  $\geq$  95
    - iii. Summa Cum Laude  $\geq$  98
3. Keep current Val & Sal concept, add Latin distinctions
  - a. Keep Val and Sal as is
  - b. Introduce the Laude distinction. Examples above

Below are a couple of articles on the topic.

## New Trend: More Than One Valedictorian

The increased competition for acceptance at elite colleges has meant more dedicated students than ever. As a result, more high schools are choosing multiple valedictorians in order to highlight the accomplishments and dedication of multiple students. At some schools, in fact, over dozens of students qualify for the honor. At Stratford High School near [Houston](#), 30 students were named valedictorian for the class of 2010.

Schools recognize multiple valedictorians to reduce the pressure and competition among students. The new trend has been criticized, but also welcomed by high-performing students who benefit from the recognition.

From <<https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/C3B11F09/Valedictorians-Who-Are-They-and-How-Are-They-Chosen/>>

If you are named valedictorian, it usually means that **you have reached the highest level of academic achievement out of all the students in your class**. At some schools, multiple students are named valedictorians. **Valedictory honors are determined by GPA**, which may be measured differently depending on your high school. I'll go over more specifics about variations in policy in the next section.

**Some high schools will also offer Latin honors to students who achieve certain GPAs.** You may have heard of this practice in the context of college academics. Students are given the titles of *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude* as markers of their academic achievements. **Different high schools will have different GPA thresholds for each honor.** At a school with weighted GPAs, for example, students who earn GPAs above a 3.6 might be *cum laude*, students who earn GPAs above a 4.0 might be *magna cum laude*, and students who earn GPAs above a 4.4 might be *summa cum laude*.

From <<https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-a-valedictorian>>