



2410 South 9th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47909
765.474.2496 | 765.474.8752 (Fax) | <http://cc.lcss.org>

Dear Parents and Students,

Central Catholic has spent time reviewing our academic recognition process by looking at alternative ways to honor student success in regards to our Valedictorian/Salutatorian Honors. We spent time researching other schools' systems for celebrating academic successes in a collaborative effort with Guerin Catholic High School. In addition, we looked at what colleges and universities look for during the application and admissions process.

Central Catholic's goal in this process was to provide a system of honoring students for meeting an academic standard and move away from students competing academically against their peers. In doing so, we wanted to provide our students an incentive to take rigorous coursework throughout high school without concern about the impact on his/her class rank. We want to encourage students to take rigorous academic courses because we feel that is the best way we can help prepare them for life beyond high school. We also believe that this best aligns with the mission of our Lafayette Catholic School System.

Beginning with the class of 2021 (current sophomores) commencement ceremony, Lafayette Central Catholic Jr/Sr High School will recognize outstanding academic performance using the Latin honors system. The program is summarized below:

- Summa Cum Laude Graduates ~ "with highest distinction"
 - Academic Honors Diploma
 - 4.00 or higher GPA
 - 8 ACP/AP/Dual Credit Courses (High School)
 - Navy/Silver Cord
- Magna Cum Laude Graduates ~ "with great distinction"
 - Academic Honors Diploma
 - 3.80 to 3.99 GPA
 - 6 ACP/AP/Dual Credit Courses (High School)
 - Silver Cord
- Cum Laude Graduates ~ "with distinction"
 - Academic Honors Diploma
 - 3.60 to 3.79 GPA
 - 4 ACP/AP/Dual Credit Courses (High School)
 - White Cord



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In addition, the class of 2021 will be the final class to honor a valedictorian and salutatorian. After the class of 2021, we will honor our students using the new Latin honor system and choose commencement speakers through an application and audition process. Below is the transition timeline to this new system.

Graduating Class	Valedictorian/Salutatorian Recognized	Latin Honors
2019	X	
2020	X	
2021	X	X
2022		X

Final grade point averages (using our current seven semester system) will be used. (Grade point averages will be rounded to the nearest two decimals) The categories will be noted in the graduation program and on their transcripts. Students will be given color-coded cords to wear during the commencement ceremony.

In closing, Central Catholic believes Latin honors is a more consistent and fair system that does not define "success" and "failure" by fractionally small differences in GPA. Rather, students will experience the benefits in learning by challenging themselves academically, accepting and overcoming failures, and focusing on the larger purpose of education.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at nwagner@lcss.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neil R. Wagner".