

Bayport-Blue Point High School Improvement Team Report



PROPOSED CHANGES TO CLASS RANK





School Improvement Team Members



- Gaurav Passi, Ed.D. Principal
- Neil Zarcone, Assistant Principal
- Martin Malone, Interim Assistant Principal
- Amity Baum, Teacher
- Danene Baker, Teacher Assistant
- Dayna Russo, School Psychologist
- Fawn Silver, Parent
- Michael Sarling, Teacher
- Suzanne Mayne, Teacher Assistant
- Jacob Ocon, Student
- Jason Giunta, Student
- John Bachek, Student
- Kayla O'Shea, Student
- Ryan Silver, Student



Purpose of Presentation



- Review the current practices regarding class rank
- Review research that the School Improvement Team undertook
- Review the School Improvement Team's recommended changes



Background Information



- **Colleges and Universities have deemphasized the use of class rank in consideration of applicants.**

(Source: National Association for College Admissions Counseling, 2011)

- **Fewer than half of high schools nationally do not report class rank information to colleges.**

(source: College Data)



Why is our current Class Rank procedure a concern?



- Deemphasized by colleges
- Forces colleges to take a more holistic look at a students application
- Creates anxiety
- Unhealthy competition
- Deflates self-esteem
- Minimizes accomplishments
- Shifts focus from learning to numbers
- Differences in numerical rank from student to student are statistically insignificant



Survey of Colleges



- **Hofstra University: Does not consider class rank in its admissions decisions**
- **Manhattan College: Class rank is not necessary.**
- **Princeton University: Does not consider class rank**
- **St. Joseph's College: Class rank has no bearing on acceptance**
- **SUNY Schools: Class rank is not considered**
- **Tulane University: Class rank is not considered**
- **University of Buffalo: Class rank has no bearing on acceptance**



Examining the Class of 2015



- The class of 2015 included 185 ranked students.
- The valedictorian and salutatorian were separated by 0.128 of a point
- The numerical ranking of the top 10% group was separated by an average of 0.389
- The numerical ranking of the top 25% was separated by an average of 0.258



Class of 2015 Statistics



- 15% of the Class of 2015 had a GPA greater than 94.5
- 39% of the Class of 2015 had a GPA greater than 89.5
- 50% of the Class of 2015 had a GPA greater than 86.78



Recommendations



- **Current Practice Determining Class Rank:**
 - Initial numerical class rank is determined in September of a student's senior year which is used to apply to colleges.
 - Final numerical class rank is determined in February of a student's senior year.
- **Recommendation:**
 - Class rank is determined in September of a student's senior year.
 - Move away from numerical ranking of students with the exception of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian which will be determined in September.



Recommendation



- **Recommendation:**
 - In place of the numerical ranking system the high school can provide colleges with a breakdown of where our students are in relationship to their peers. The breakdown would look as follows for the Class of 2015:

GPA Range	% of Students
94.5 and above	15%
89.5 and above	39.4%
84.5 and above	66%
79.5 and above	78.9%
74.5 and above	92.9%



Recommendation



- **Develop a Cum Laude system using a student's weighted GPA as follows:**
 - **96.5 - 100 GPA – Summa Cum Laude**
 - **95 - 96.49 GPA – Magna Cum Laude**
 - **94 - 94.99 GPA – Cum Laude**



Recommendation Implementation Timeline



- **Class of 2017:** Rank only in September and implement the Cum Laude recognition system.
- **Class of 2018:** Rank only in September and remove numerical ranking except for the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Implement the Cum Laude recognition system.



Questions?