

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and rugged mountains in the background under a clear sky. The scene is reflected in the still water of the lake. Overlaid on this background is a quote in a white, hand-drawn, chalk-like font.

“Change does not  
necessarily assure  
progress, but progress  
implacably requires  
change.”

— HENRY STEELE COMMAGER

# Why Change? Why Strategic Plan? Why Set and Work to Achieve Goals?

NOT Chasing a rank... ARE upholding a reputation.

We were slipping...

- ▶ Failed QSAC
- ▶ Our Schools' programming hadn't changed since the 90's
- ▶ Our Infrastructure was dilapidated to the point of emergency referendum
- ▶ Policies hadn't been updated since 2008

# Vision/Mission Statement

## **We nurture. We inspire. We empower.**

The Haddonfield School District nurtures, inspires and empowers every learner. In collaboration with our community, we **nurture unique abilities** and **foster a climate conducive to taking risks** in pursuit of excellence. We inspire lifelong learners to excel in their endeavors. We empower each other to be inclusive, flexible and critical thinkers in a global community.

We will nurture self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making to ensure the **social and emotional well-being of our learners**.

We will inspire learners to advance their understanding of our interconnectedness in order to engage meaningfully and respectfully with people of diverse identities, experiences, and points of view.

We will empower learners to engage critically in a globally connected world through relevant content, innovative technology, flexible learning environments, and purposeful experiences.



# ► Policy 5432

# What District Goals are we trying to advance?

## Nurturing Social Emotional Learning

- ▶ Continue to celebrate and award our top students
- ▶ Encourage healthy drive toward excellence
- ▶ Encourage student agency over their academic careers
- ▶ Broaden spectrum of academic accomplishment

## Empowering Innovation / Encouraging Academic Exploration

- ▶ Give all of our students the flexibility to explore a more diverse educational offering
- ▶ Encourage the purposeful experience of completing the full curricular intent of an AP course which includes the final exam.

# Problems to solve

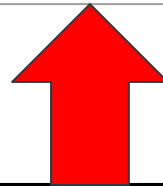
- ▶ **Grade Inflation**
  - ▶ Does not help our students in a competitive environment
- ▶ **Course Integrity**
  - ▶ AP courses are designed as collegiate level courses with college final
- ▶ **Rewarding Rigor**
  - ▶ Students are getting no additional recognition for doing additional work
  - ▶ The rationale for our current policy was to give our top students an advantage, now it will start to hurt all of our students.
- ▶ **Avoid unhealthy competition**
  - ▶ Statistically insignificant differences between top students

# No change from current policy

- ▶ **Weighted GPA** - A student's weighted grade point average shall be entered on his/her record and shall be subject to the Board's policy on release of student records.
- ▶ **Reporting of Class Rank** - The district shall not report student class rank publicly. Student transcripts will NOT report class rank.
- ▶ The district shall maintain a weighted grade point average for all students and will maintain a class rank order. However, the district shall only report a student's individual class rank position directly to postsecondary institutions or other entities (student/parent), which have a legitimate reason to request such information.

# Course weighting - proposed changes

	<b>Current</b> (Addition to Grade)	<b>Proposed</b> (Addition to Grade)		<b>Students Enrolled</b>	<b>% of Students</b>
Unweighted	0	0			
Accelerated	8	8			
AP Without Test	12	10		697	100%
AP With Test	12	12		487	70%



This is not Punitive - it is a reward for completing extra work.

It is not unreasonable to expect the students who complete the rigorous coursework AND sit for the exam to get credit.



# Course weighting - rationale

Weighting is being realigned to better reflect the level of rigor required by a student to complete each tier:

- ▶ Unweighted course: Final grade is the final grade (**92=92**)
- ▶ Accelerated course: Eight points added to the final grade (**92=100**)
- ▶ AP course: Ten points added to the final grade (**92=102**)
- ▶ AP course + **AP exam\***: Twelve points added to final grade (**92=104**)

\*AP Exam is not a requirement and financial aid is available for students who need assistance paying for AP exams

Established around 2010

# What about our peers?



**Glen Ridge High School**  
A Tradition of Excellence



**SUMMIT PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**



**TREDYFFRIN / EASTTOWN  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Inspiring the Future*



**RADNOR  
HIGH SCHOOL**



**LOWER MERION**  
— SCHOOL DISTRICT —

# Comp. Practices

	<b>Current</b> (Addition to Grade)	<b>Proposed</b> (Addition to Grade)		<b>M'Town</b>	<b>Lower Merion</b>	<b>Radnor</b>	<b>Summit</b>	<b>Glenridge</b>
Required to Take	No	No		No	Expected	Required	Required	Required
Students Pay*	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WGPA Method	Add points	Add Points		5.0 Scale	5.0	N/P	5.0	5.0
General	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Accelerated	8	8		10	10	Stated if no AP Exam only Honors WGPA Points	7	5
AP Without Test/ Honors	12	10		10	10		No credit without taking exam	5
AP With Test	12	12		10	10		7	10

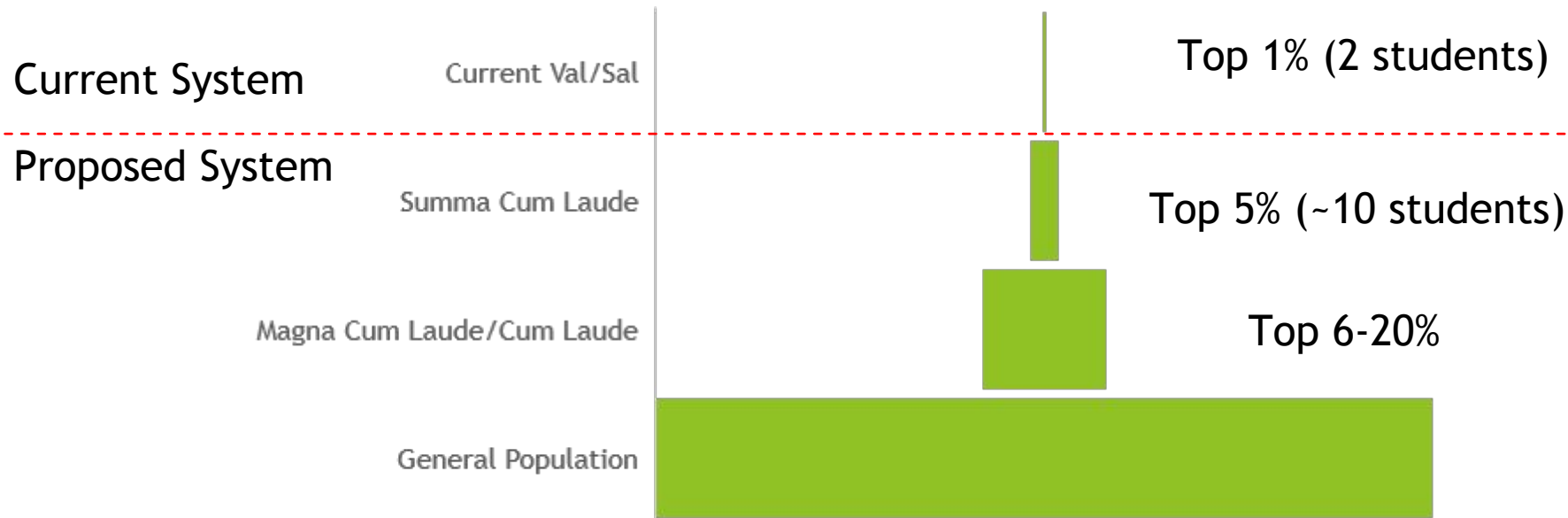
Students across our area are already paying &  
HSD has nothing to gain financially

# Honorary Distinctions - proposed changes

Replace the Valedictorian and Salutatorian designation with:

- ▶ Summa Cum Laude: “with **highest** honor”
- ▶ Magna Cum Laude: “with **great** honor”
- ▶ Cum Laude: “with **honor**”

# Honorary Distinctions - rationale



This is not  
“everyone gets a  
trophy.”

Students who  
achieve this  
academic honor  
most often have  
a WGPA **well  
above 100.**

Statistically  
insignificant  
differences

- ▶ **Summa Cum Laude:** Opens the definition of highest achievement to mitigate statistically insignificant differences between class rank
- ▶ **Magna Cum Laude/Cum Laude:** Creates flexibility to explore a more diverse educational offering for high-performing students



# H

HADDONFIELD

*We Nurture · We Inspire · We Empower*



## NURTURING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

*We will nurture self-awareness, social awareness, self management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making to ensure the social and emotional wellbeing of our learners.*

## INSPIRING CULTURAL COMPETENCE

*We will inspire learners to advance their understanding of our interconnectedness in order to engage meaningfully & respectfully with people of diverse identities, experiences, and points of view.*

## EMPOWERING INNOVATION THROUGH FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

*We will empower learners to engage critically in a connected world through relevant content, innovative technology, flexible learning environments, and purposeful experiences.*

**Haddonfield  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



...VISION...



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL  
WELLBEING  
CULTURAL  
COMPETENCE  
INNOVATIVE  
THINKING

