

## Recap of 2018/Junior Class Parent Meeting

Principal Ewing welcomed us to the meeting and introduced staff members that were present.

### **New Class Rank Policy** - Linda Johnson - DISD College & Career Readiness

The way class rank is computed has changed completely. Among other changes we will now use a 5 point scale (rather than previous the 4 point scale). DISD determined that most school districts around the country currently use the 5 point scale. Keeping the 4 point scale potentially put DISD students at a disadvantage in the college application process. Students will receive GPA & Class Rank info in the first two weeks of October that will reflect grades for Freshman and Sophomore year. Thereafter updated GPA and rank will be released after the end of each semester.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: at first glance this topic can be confusing. In addition to reading these notes, you will need to read the [district's policy on class rank](#). Handouts on the topic were previously emailed and they are also available on the [CLASS OF 2018 webpage](#). If you have questions after reading the policy document, [contact your student's counselor](#). Below is MY best attempt to summarize the changes but you should refer to the Board document for the actual policy.*

Transcripts will show two GPAs, the traditional GPA on a 100 point scale along with a 5-point GPA.

1) **The "traditional" GPA is on a 100 point scale.** It is an average of all class grades regardless of weight (Pre-AP, IB, etc.) It's calculated from all (completed) semester grades. This scale is used in designating "with honors" graduates. Upon graduation, an average (from all 8 semesters) of 85-89.9 will graduate "with honors;" 90-94.9 will graduate with "high honors;" and 95 and above will receive "highest honors."

2) **The new 5-point scale** takes into account the weight of each course. There are three weighted categories:

category I includes AP, IB Dual Credit and upper level PLTW\*,

category II includes Pre-AP, IB MYP, and lower level PLTW\*

category III includes all other courses

\***PLTW stands for Project Lead the Way** certified courses. A separate [handout lists all of the PLTW classes offered by DISD](#). Not all of the courses are available at Woodrow. The available courses are primarily in engineering.

There is a table in the Class Rank Policy document that lists the 5-point scale conversion for the 3 categories. Access to Class Rank and GPA policies is available on the DISD website. There are different search methods to find information on various subjects. Here is the website:

<http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/361>

You can also access this information through the [DISD website](#), by clicking on the "Board of Trustees" tab and then selecting "Board Policy."

## **Counselors Presentation - Olga Math**

[View Counselor PowerPoint](#)

[View Counselor Handout](#)

## **SAT/ACT Testing**

See the counselors PowerPoint presentation for a list of all of the test dates. In February, DISD will pay for all students to take the SAT. Otherwise, the cost of the ACT is \$42.50 and the SAT is \$43.00. Some students may qualify for free testing based on economic circumstances. Contact the counselors or college room for more information.

## **Letters of Recommendation**

See the information on the [counseling page of the school website](#) for guidelines and request forms (for students and parents).

## **Apply Texas - <https://www.applytexas.org>**

This site is used to apply for admission to any Texas public university, as well as to participating community and private colleges. It is also a great place to do research on colleges and scholarships. *It's not too early to set up an account. EDITOR'S NOTE: the opening day for submitting applications at many schools will be in mid-August before the start of our student's senior year.*

## **NAVIANCE** (access through the [Woodrow website under "Academics", then "counseling and guidance"](#))

This is a site to assist all students in college and career planning. It is a central resource and student records program with many practical applications from college searching, career exploration, to creating a resume, taking a personality / career inventory and more.

## **ATTENDANCE - Nemisha Bhakta**

The importance of attendance was emphasized. Both excused and unexcused absences were discussed. Notes for excused absences must be turned into the attendance office within 3 days of returning to school after the absence. Students are required to be present in class for a certain percentage of days each semester. If they miss too many days they risk losing credit for the class. Both excused and unexcused absences count towards the percentages. Please see the handouts for more details. The [attendance handouts are available on the 2018 page](#) of the website.

**Teacher Class sponsors** were introduced: Sidrah Khan (social studies teacher) & Sam Mount (English teacher)

## **Homecoming**

Parade, Pep Rally, & Cookout: Nov 3

Football Game: Nov 4

(CON'T next page)

Dance (for all students): Nov 5

See the [homecoming handout](#) for other dates and information. All families are encouraged to support the homecoming parade by becoming a family sponsor. This is the PTA's only fundraiser.

**PTA**

All families were encouraged to join the PTA for \$10 a person. It can be [done online](#) or forms can be picked up in the office.