

# What are FCPS graduation honors?

**F**rederick County Public Schools' graduation honors programs ensure that every student, regardless of course of study, is eligible for recognition. And the programs reward students who choose to take the most rigorous courses possible.

Frederick County high schools use two types of honors programs to recognize graduating seniors who have taken challenging classes and achieved certain grade point averages.

## ■ Tiered Honors

The first program recognizes all graduating students who have challenged themselves at the highest level, regardless of course of study, by meeting 1 of 3 tiers of exemplary achievement, according to weighted grade point averages (GPAs):

Honors	3.50-3.74
High Honors	3.75-3.99
Highest Honors	4.0 or greater

## What is a weighted GPA?

Frederick County public high school courses have 3 academic levels: honors, merit and directed. Grades are weighted for academic courses described as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, accelerated math, and honors courses in English, math, science and social studies. Merit and directed courses are not weighted.

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NON-WEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
A (100-90%)	4 points	5.00 points
B (89-80%)	3 points	3.75 points
C (79-70%)	2 points	2.50 points
D (69-60%)	1 point	1.25 points
F (59-0%)	0 points	0.00 points

## ■ State Scholars

The State Scholars program recognizes students who have achieved certain non-weighted GPAs and completed challenging coursework to prepare for success after graduation. This program is administered by a statewide coalition of major Maryland employers called the Maryland Business Roundtable. Required are at least:

- 4 credits of English
- 3 of math (algebra I and II and geometry)
- 3 of science (biology, chemistry and one other lab science—physics preferred)
- 3 of social studies (U.S. history, world history and government)
- 2 of the same foreign language.

Starting with 2006, graduates who complete the required classes and achieve a non-weighted minimum 3.5 GPA receive the distinction of **Maryland Scholar with Honors**. Students who complete the required classes and earn a non-weighted minimum 2.5 GPA are designated **Maryland Scholars**.



### Do middle school grades count?

Yes. Cumulative GPAs will include final grades for each high school course completed for graduation credit in middle school and in grades 9-12.

**Some students complete college courses while they are in high school.**

**Does FCPS include college course grades in determining a student's GPA?**

No. To determine graduation awards, FCPS uses only cumulative GPAs for high school courses.

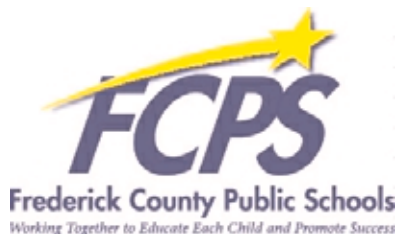
**What about valedictorian and salutatorian honors?**

The graduating Class of 2005 is the last class in which students who rank first in scholarship are designated as valedictorians and students who rank second as salutatorians. In the process of phasing out the old designations and phasing in the new "tiered honors," FCPS considered students in the graduating classes of 2004 and 2005 eligible for both types of honors (valedictorian and salutatorian as well as highest and high honors).



### For more information:

- Talk with your high school counselor
- See FCPS Reg. 400-27 online at [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org)
- Contact the FCPS Office of Counseling & Student Support: 301-644-5224



# GRADUATION *Honors*

**FCPS  
Recognizes  
Students for  
Aiming High  
and Working Hard**

**FREDERICK COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

