

**Lancaster Community School District**  
**Policy #463- Grading Systems**

It shall be the policy of the Lancaster School District to evaluate student achievement in grades kindergarten through 12. The issuance of grades on a regular basis serves to:

- a. Promote a process of continuous evaluation of student performance;
- b. Inform the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian of the student's progress; and
- c. Provide a basis for bringing about change in student performance if such change is deemed necessary.
- d. Starting with the graduating Class of 2020, Lancaster High School will recognize graduating Seniors through the Laude System. The Laude System recognizes students that take rigorous courses during their four years of high school. The Laude System is a point based system that combines honors points with a student's GPA under our normal grading scale. This system will reward a student for taking designated honors courses and will earn the student 1 honor point (per semester) or .5 honor point (per semester) for taking designated honors courses. Students must successfully complete the course to earn honors points. Students taking Advanced Placement Courses or Project Lead the Way Courses will receive 1 honor point per semester for each of these courses taken. Courses designated as Advanced Standing or Honors earn the student .5 an honor point per course per semester. (The reason for the difference is that AP and PLTW courses require the teachers to attend special advanced training and the curriculum is nationally audited for rigor.) The Laude System will allow for recognition of a wider range of students. Under the Laude system students must meet two criteria –the student must minimally have a 3.2 C.G.P.A and have earned a minimum of 16 honors points. Once a student meets these requirements they can earn one of the following distinctions– Cum Laude (With honor/distinction), Magna Cum Laude (With great honor/distinction) and Summa Cum Laude (With highest honor/distinction). A list Laude eligible courses will be available in the Lancaster High School Student Handbook in August 2016. The Laude courses will be determined and evaluated every two years by a 10 member committee comprised of the guidance counselor, high school building principals, and one representative from each group: tech ed/agriculture/business, music, math, English, science, social sciences and art/world language.

Those students who earn Summa Cum Laude (50 points or higher) will be awarded gold cords to be worn at graduation. Those students who earn Magna Cum Laude (32– 49.9 points) will be awarded with silver cords to be worn at graduation. Those students who earn Cum Laude (16 – 31.9) points will be awarded with white cords to be worn at graduation. Minimum qualifications for Cum Laude are a 3.2 CGPA and 16 Laude points.

Transfer students will receive honor points toward the Laude System, for Advance Placement Courses, Transcribed College Courses and Project Lead the Way Courses passed and completed at their previous school.

Due to the varying nature of how honors classes are designated in other schools, honors classes other than Advanced Placement, Transcribed and Project Lead the Way will not be granted to transfer students for honor points toward the Laude System.

Specific grading guidelines shall be developed for use in the district.

The Lancaster School District shall not discriminate in the methods, practices and materials used for evaluating students on any basis prohibited by law.

LEGAL REF.:           Section 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes  
                              PI 9.03 (1), Wisconsin Administrative Code

CROSS REF.:

APPROVED: August 10, 2016  
REVISED: