

Student Awards, Honors, Scholarships
(Selection of Senior Class Valedictorian/Salutatorian)

It is the policy of the Telluride Board of Education to recognize outstanding achievement as it occurs throughout a student's career in school. Towards this end, the Board, through its administration and faculty, annually bestows the honor of Valedictorian and Salutatorian on those seniors who have achieved the highest cumulative grade point averages in the senior class. These students are recognized at the graduation ceremony.

The criteria for selection shall be as follows:

1. Determination will be made at the end of the third quarter grading period of the senior year. Students selected are expected to maintain their grades, class enrollment, and satisfactory behavior through graduation or forfeit this honor.
2. Cumulative 3.5 GPA and above.
3. All Telluride High School graded courses will be included and the "weighted" GPA will be used in determining the Valedictorian and Salutatorian.
4. To be eligible for selection, a student must complete the requirement for a "Distinguished Academic Program" (DAP), and thus qualify for "Honors Graduation."
5. To be eligible for selection, students enrolling in the district for the first time at Telluride Middle/High School must be in attendance their full junior and senior years to qualify for Salutatorian or Valedictorian honors (with the exception noted under #7). To qualify, students must complete the "Distinguished Academic Program" (DAP) - handouts are available at the front office.
6. High school grades of students who transfer into the Telluride School will be factored into the student's GPA in Telluride, unless there have been extenuating circumstances.
7. Students who choose, during their high school careers, to participate in an exchange program that has a clear, distinct, and different academic delivery system from that which is offered in Telluride will not be penalized in terms of their GPA for participation in such an experience. Grades will be transferred back to Telluride on a pass-fail basis. These grades will not then be a factor in the Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection, and students may use these classes to qualify for a "Distinguished Academic Program" honor.

8. It shall be the intent of the administration to determine the selection of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian on the basis of eight semesters of high school experience, including summer school courses. Should a student take a college level course, that grade will be factored into the GPA at the student's discretion.

9. If two students have the same GPA, they shall be named co-valedictorians. The Valedictorian will come from the top one percent of the graduating senior class. If there is one Valedictorian, and the next two students have the same highest GPA they shall be named co-Salutatorians.

Revised and Adopted: March 4, 2003

Reviewed by Board of Education: January 21, 2014

Telluride School District R-1, Telluride, Colorado