

**MCBAIN SENIOR SCHOLAR
TO REPLACE
VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN
Approved by the Board of Education
Beginning with the Class of 2012**

Starting with the graduating class of 2012 McBain High School will implement a Senior Scholar Award in lieu of Valedictorian and Salutatorian. This award will be calculated using a formula that has been used to calculate Academic All-State. The formula uses the students' ACT score and cumulative G.P.A., through the first semester of their senior year.

The results from this formula will be used to generate a Top 10% list. To be eligible to be ranked students must be enrolled and have completed four (4) of the seven (7) semesters that are used to determine class rank at McBain High School.

Many schools today are moving away from valedictorian and salutatorian honors to honoring a higher number of students for scholastic achievement. This gives a larger number of students an opportunity to be recognized for outstanding achievement. It also recognizes those students who have taken a rigorous college-prep curriculum that prepares them to do well on the ACT which is the number one college entrance test taken by all of our juniors. To do well on the ACT students must take rigorous and relevant classes in math, science, and English. The higher the ACT score, plus a high G.P.A. gives them a high calculated formula to be ranked as a Senior Scholar.

How would the formula benefit McBain High School and our students?

- It strongly encourages students to perform at their best on the ACT.
- Remember, the ACT is arguably the most important factor in determining college admission.
- The standards and benchmarks of Michigan's Graduation Requirements are college driven.
- Encourages students to take a stronger rigor of courses that will help prepare them to do better on the ACT and in College.
- It justly validates our "Top Scholars"

For example: When you have two students with the same GPA (4.0), but

- Student 1 has a **30** ACT
- Student 2 has a **18** ACT

Are these two students equal in overall academic achievement?

Without this formula, McBain High School could name a student Valedictorian or Salutatorian who may not be accepted at specific universities or colleges.

Senior Scholar Value is calculated with this Academic All-State formula: $(\text{ACT Score} \times 27.777) + (\text{G.P.A.} \times 250)$. Students will have their GPAs and ACT Composite scores calculated into a ranking order (GPA 65%, ACT 35%). As in other GPA calculations, there will be no rounding of GPAs or points.

We will take the top 10% and this will create our DISTRICT RANKING. For example, in a class of 76 students, we will honor eight students as Senior Scholars. These students will be recognized at the Annual Awards Convocation and they will be given a distinguished Medallion to wear during commencement.

McBain High School will still have the traditional CLASS RANK calculated strictly by cumulative G.P.A. and this value will only be released to appropriate school personnel, the request of a parent or student or in response to formal legal processes. It will be placed on transcripts for sending to colleges and universities. Thus, this will not affect any natural ranking scholarships that might be given by a college or university.

As stated before, Senior Scholar is an excellent way to honor more of our students who work hard to be successful in school. Recognition is the number one way to accelerate and motivate people, so by recognizing a larger number of students we are placing a stronger emphasis on scholastic achievement. More students will be motivated to work because the award is attainable, competitive, and rigorous.