

May 2016

Parents and Students,

The Hayfield School Board recently approved changes to the process in which we recognize graduating seniors for academic excellence. The new changes will affect our graduates, starting with the class of 2018. In the past, only our two highest-achieving students have been recognized through the designation of Valedictorian and Salutatorian. High school staff and the school board felt the need to openly recognize more than two exceptional students for their academic achievements and hard work throughout the course of their high school careers. This new process for recognizing our students is summarized below.

### **New Graduation Recognition**

Starting with the class of 2018, there are three possible ways for a student to be recognized for strong academic achievement throughout their high school career. These recognitions will occur at graduation. It is possible for a student to be recognized in more than one area.

#### **1. National Honor Society**

The criteria and recommendation for National Honor Society (NHS) remains unchanged. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.67 and are judged on leadership, service and character. Mrs. Connelly will continue to be the advisor for National Honor Society.

#### **2. Honors**

Students will have the opportunity to graduate with Honors, depending on their cumulative GPA in grades 9-12.

<b>High Honors:</b>	3.85-4.00 GPA
<b>Honors:</b>	3.67-3.85 GPA

#### **3. Diploma with Distinction**

The Diploma with Distinction is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves in the best possible way to prepare for the future, whether the student is planning on attending college, joining the military, or entering the workforce. The Diploma with Distinction challenges students to get the most out of their education at Hayfield High School. To qualify for this honor a student must:

- Earn 12 semester credits with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher **in distinction classes**
- Take the Distinction course for a letter grade. (No pass/fail allowed)
- Be enrolled at Hayfield High School for a minimum of 3.5 credits for each of the student's junior and senior year.
- Earn Distinction credits from three different academic departments.

### **Diploma with Distinction Course Offerings**

The number in parenthesis represents the number of semesters students will receive credit for.

\*Indicates college credit

#### **Agriculture and Industrial Technology**

Pre-Engineering (2.0)  
Veterinary Science (1.0)

#### **Art**

Independent Art I (1.0)  
Independent Art II (1.0)

#### **Business Education**

Digital World (1.0)\*  
Managerial Finance (2.0)

#### **English**

College English (2.0)\*

#### **FACS**

Foods III (2.0)  
Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation (2.0)\*

#### **Foreign Language**

Spanish III (2.0)  
Spanish IV (2.0)\*

#### **Mathematics**

Calculus (2.0)  
College Algebra (2.0)\*

#### **Music**

Band (2.0)-Special Criteria Apply  
Choir (2.0)-Special Criteria Apply

#### **Science**

Advanced Chemistry (2.0)  
Physics (2.0)  
Anatomy and Physiology (2.0)

#### **Social Studies**

Sociology (1.0)  
Psychology (1.0)

#### **Final Changes**

The last notable change to our new graduation recognition is that Hayfield High School will no longer be recognizing a class Valedictorian or Salutatorian. This change reflects the current educational practice of many surrounding school districts. Hayfield High School believes in promoting an academic environment focused on collaboration, not competition. We want all students to succeed, challenge themselves, and be prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.