

Graduation Honors

1. Intent

It is the intent of the Monroe County Board of Education to honor upon graduation those students who have worked through their high school years with diligence, purpose, and success at those areas of measurement that indicate scholarship. It is understood that an academic record is much more than a list of subjects taken and grades earned. Accountability in the form of test scores on the state testing, college admission tests, the quality of classes taken, attendance, work readiness tests (if taken) and the grade point average are all aspects of scholarship in Monroe County Schools. To that end, the following are to be evaluated when considering graduation honors with all students achieving the distinction to be granted the recognition during the graduation ceremony:

- 1.1 Grade point average - figured on a 4.0 scale.
- 1.2 College Admission Test results - these scores are normed against standards based on millions of test takers both across the nation and in foreign countries for students applying to American colleges. Monroe County graduates need to be recognized for meeting the challenge of high expectations on a more global level. Both the ACT and the SAT are part of this consideration with a scale established for both and the student receiving credit toward honors for the higher achievement score of the two tests.
- 1.3 West Virginia standardized test results - at this writing, these are WESTEST scores. Students shall be recognized for achieving mastery, above mastery, or distinguished levels or the commensurate levels under a different testing instrument as determined by the West Virginia Department of Education. No student who scores at "below mastery" or its equivalent will be considered for graduation honors under this program.
- 1.4 Attendance - figured on a percentage of days attended divided by the days in session for grades ten through twelve (10-12). Because such a percentage gives recognition to those students who attended school faithfully, it is to be considered as part of the recognition program. However, extenuating circumstances related to medical conditions or circumstances beyond the student's control are to be considered. If necessary, the school would make a decision about those circumstances and any appeal would go to the superintendent in the same fashion as a driver's license appeal.
- 1.5 Work Readiness Assessment - the student who has taken classes at the vocational school is required to take a work readiness assessment, currently Work Keys. The

student who achieves the “gold certification” on this assessment is to have this as part of the evaluation for graduation honors. Only students who achieve the gold standard are to be recognized.

2. Graduation Honors

- 2.1 A student is deemed a “State Scholar” if the score following the consideration of the above items is deemed worthy of “highest honors” upon graduation, with a specific score to be determined through administrative guidelines.
- 2.2 A student is deemed a “County Scholar” if the score following the consideration of the above items is deemed worthy of high honors upon graduation, with a specific score to be determined through administrative guidelines.

3. Other Honors or Ranking Considerations

- 3.1 The criteria established above may be used by the school to determine successful scholarship winners or other school awards.
- 3.2 Students are to have access to information concerning their progress in these established measures in a timely fashion. The school shall establish procedures for providing the student with the information or providing access to it in some electronic fashion.

4. Effective Date and Evaluation

- 4.1 The policy thus established is effective August 1, 2007, and applies to the Class of 2010 and succeeding graduation classes.
- 4.2 This policy shall be reviewed by the faculty senate of James Monroe High School every June, with recommendations or comments concerning the policy to go to the superintendent and Board for consideration.

Adopted by Board Action: August 21, 2007