

Chad E. Gestson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Thea Andrade
Chief Achievement Officer

Phoenix Union
High School District
4502 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85012
602-764-1570
phoenixunion.org

Linda Abril

Alhambra

Bioscience

Bostrom

Trevor G. Browne

Camelback

Central

Cesar Chavez

Desiderata

Betty H. Fairfax

Franklin

Gifted & Talented

Carl Hayden

Maryvale

Metro Tech

Montessori

North

Phoenix Coding

PXU Digital

Academies at South

Wilson

February 9, 2021

Dear PXU Families,

In the spring of 2017, the Phoenix Union Marks & Grading Committee made the recommendation to phase out Valedictorian and Salutatorian designations for graduating seniors. Instead, we will continue to rank students, place them into percentile groups and celebrate other accomplishments. We will continue to support students in college going efforts such as taking the ACT and/or SAT, developing personal statements, participating in community service, clubs and athletics. We believe these, coupled with strong grade point averages, are what colleges and universities are looking at holistically when determining admission.

As stated earlier, class rank will continue and be listed on the official transcript per Section 6 of the Marks & Grading manual:

*(6.1) Students shall be officially ranked in the following groups: Top two percent*Top five percent*Top ten percent*Top fifteen percent*Top twenty-five percent*Top fifty percent. (6.2) A specific class rank may be given when requested and/or when an official transcript is produced.*

Unfortunately, with the challenges associated with the pandemic, we were unable to communicate this decision in a timely manner to our graduating class of 2021, parents and community. As a result, we will be postponing the removal of the designations for one year. This allows the designation of Valedictorian and Salutatorian to be recognized one last time for the class of 2021.

As always, we look forward to celebrating, recognizing and awarding diplomas for all of our graduating seniors in Phoenix Union.

Sincerely,



Thea Andrade
Chief Achievement Officer
Phoenix Union High School District