

## Graduation Recognition Program for Standard Diploma Students

A new graduation recognition program, known as the *Cum Laude* system, was approved by The Lee County School Board on June 14, 2005.

Through the School District of Lee County's *Cum Laude* System, all high school students who enter the ninth grade during the 2005-2006 school year and are pursuing a standard high school diploma will be eligible to earn one of several special designations. Based on the final, weighted grades, graduates may be recognized during commencement (and on their diplomas and transcripts) as having earned one of these special designations:

<b>Rank Designation</b>	<b>Grand Point Average</b>
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> ("with highest praise")	4.00 and higher
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i> ("with great praise")	3.75 to 3.99
<i>Cum Laude</i> ("with praise")	3.50 to 3.74
Rank with Distinction	3.25 to 3.49
Rank with Honors	3.00 to 3.24

Among the many benefits of this system is that beginning with the class of 2009, the highest honors in a graduating class will no longer be limited to a Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Every student, rather than just one or two who excels academically, will be appropriately recognized. While the former designations of Valedictorian and Salutatorian will no longer be used for the Commencement Ceremonies, class rank will continue to be calculated based on a weighted grade point average system. Students who take Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses will continue to add "weighted" grade points to their average, and the resulting weighted GPA will continue to be used for admission and scholarships to colleges and universities.

In addition each high school diploma will contain the following designations, if appropriate:

- Student's major area of interest, based on completion of credits
- A designation reflecting completion of four (4) or more accelerated college credit courses, through AP, IB or dual enrollment
- A career education certification
- A Florida Ready to Work credential