

Students and administration reveal their opinions about the discontinuation of class rank

With the termination of class rank, both administration and students thought students would benefit in the long run.

Class rank looked at a student's weighted and unweighted GPA and ranked that students among their peers. Colleges often looked at class rank to select the best applicant.

Principal **Amy Murphy** said administration researched the topic before they made the decision.

"There was this committee that studied it for a while, they contacted a list of schools that are similar to ours across the country," Murphy said. "I think of the 50 schools they contacted, only three schools were doing class rank."

Administration also contacted colleges to make sure students without class rank would not run into problems during the selection process.

Senior **Chris Burgess** said he felt class rank had no effect on him due to BVNW's average GPA and academic standards.

"I don't think that it's a good measure of how a student is doing compared to what they should be doing because someone in like a small town that's 50th in their class is going to be different to someone at Northwest that's 50th in their class." Burgess said.

Murphy said she thought class rank prevented students from receiving opportunities due its competitive nature.

"We've had lots of kids who missed out on scholarships and things because they have a great GPA but when you looked at them class rank wise, they ended up getting knocked out of a lot of scholarship opportunities," Murphy said.

Sophomore **Kenny Liou** said he believed the ending of class rank benefited students.

“[Students] don’t have to worry about how they rank against their classmates,” Liou said. “It reduces stress in students who we already stressed from other things going on.”

Murphy said achieving a high class rank the Blue Valley school district would be more challenging than in a district with a lower average GPA as a result of the competitive environment the district creates. Murphy also said the expectations placed on the community played a role in students’ stress levels.

Junior **Cynthia Dong** said the environment Blue Valley schools created put more pressure on its students.

“They’re always emphasizing academic excellence and extracurriculars,” Dong said. “Blue Valley schools are full of people who always win state competitions [or] get perfect scores on tests and go to amazing colleges. Even though it does encourage people to do more and to do better in life, it also causes people to feel bad about themselves when they don’t need to.”

Murphy said administration tried to help students with the stress and pressure they faced everyday by trying to balance the mental health aspect of students’ lives.

Liou said the stress and pressure that came with going to a Blue Valley school presented itself as a benefit.

“I don’t think [it’s] a disadvantage,” Liou said. “The teachers and what they provide at Blue Valley schools really help students learn more, learn what they want to do and become better people in general.”