

Advanced Placement Program

NNPS Students Challenge Themselves With AP Coursework

One of the key goals in Newport News Public Schools is for students to develop a strong foundation in math, literacy, history and science through challenging and rigorous coursework. NNPS is making strides in raising achievement levels for all students, and a new report from the College Board shows a tremendous increase in the number of students taking the toughest courses.

From 2001 to 2007, the number of high school students taking Advanced Placement (AP) coursework rose 47 percent, from 1,092 to 1,603. That means 511 more students were exposed to college-level curriculum offered in AP courses.

Why Take AP Exams

Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses developed by the College Board, a not-for-profit association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. AP tests are administered through the College Board and scored by an independent party. Studies show that AP courses move students towards a higher level of preparedness for success after high school. AP courses also:

- improve writing skills and problem-solving techniques
- develop study habits necessary for tackling rigorous coursework
- provide students with a greater level of depth and detail in the subject areas

Additionally, students who score a 3 (out of 5) or higher on an AP exam are eligible for college credit.

Washington Post reporter Jay Mathews, who developed the “Best High Schools in America” rating system published in *Newsweek* magazine, says taking an AP class prepares students for success. “The smartest schools realize that they are engaging, and offer challenging courses that will help them [students] succeed in college,” said Mathews in a phone interview last year. He said that Newport News “understands that participation in college level courses and tests is good for all students.” Data has shown that students who have taken at least one AP course are twice as likely to complete college than students who have not taken any AP courses.

NNPS Encourages AP Enrollment and AP Test Taking

Recognizing the benefits of AP coursework for students, NNPS prepares high school students in ninth and 10th grade for the rigors of AP coursework. For the past several years, NNPS has encouraged all students to prepare for and take at least one AP class. Today, any student may register for an AP class and NNPS covers all exam fees. NNPS is also a leader in AP course offerings, with 37 courses in 22 subject areas – nearly every AP course offered.

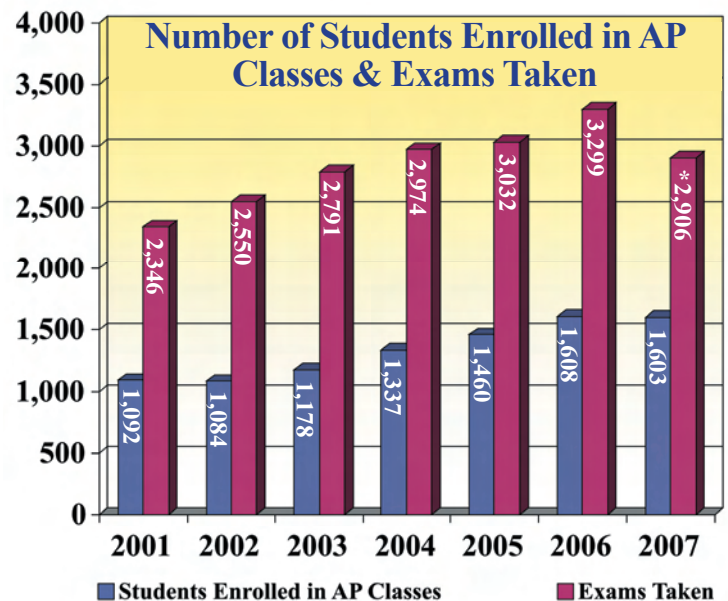
Division Highlights: Advanced Placement Courses

➔ 47% increase in student enrollment since 2001

➔ 24% increase in the number of exams taken since 2001

2007 Statistics

School/Region	# Tested Students	# of Exams	Mean Grade	% of Exams Score = or >3
Division	1,603	2,906	2.34	40%
Denbigh	256	407	2.31	36%
Heritage	225	381	1.64	15%
Menchville	415	845	2.69	53%
Warwick	351	654	2.18	37%
Woodside	368	595	2.44	43%
Virginia	55,201	100,435	2.92	61%
Global	1,464,254	2,533,431	2.89	59%



* For 2007, one exam was eliminated due to a course change

AP Top Ten

Ten Reasons Why Parents Should Encourage Students to Take Advanced Placement Courses

1. Students study a subject in greater depth and are in classes with other students who are enthusiastic about sharing ideas and concepts in academically challenging ways
2. Students who take AP courses are more prepared to do college work because they have learned and practiced important learning and study skills.
3. Students who succeed in AP courses and exams know that they have the ability to succeed in college, which helps them have the confidence to take more difficult and demanding courses.
4. Students who are successful in AP courses often enter college as sophomores. Over 1,400 institutions in the United States grant a full year's credit to students who have enough credits from taking AP courses and exams.
5. Students who take AP courses often look at things differently. They often have experiences that broaden their horizons and provide them with new insights into their own skills and interests.
6. Newport News Public Schools pays for all costs associated with AP examinations.
7. Students who take AP courses improve their chances of getting into competitive colleges.
8. Students who take AP courses and exams increase their options at college. They may be able to take upper level courses in their field of interest or complete their undergraduate degrees in less than four years thus saving money on college tuition.
9. Students who excel in AP courses may receive a Scholar Award from the College Board.
10. Most importantly, students who take AP courses know that they have mastered rigorous academic courses. This knowledge may encourage them to take academic risks that result in significant accomplishments in college and throughout their lives.

AP Courses in Newport News

Art History	Latin Literature
Biology	Latin: Vergil
Calculus AB	Macroeconomics
Calculus BC	Microeconomics
Chemistry	Music Theory
Chinese Language & Culture	Physics B
Comparative Government & Politics	Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
Computer Science A	Physics C: Mechanics
Computer Science AB	Psychology
English Language & Composition	Spanish Literature
English Literature & Composition	Statistics
Environmental Science	Studio Art: 2-D Design
European History	Studio Art: 3-D Design
French Language	Studio Art: Drawing
German Language	United States Government & Politics
Human Geography	United States History
Italian Language & Culture	World History
Japanese Language & Culture	