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## School district receives AP honor

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Five hundred forty-seven districts across the U.S. and Canada have received this honor for increasing access to AP (Advanced Placement) course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams.

As indicated by the College Board, reaching these goals signifies that these districts are consistently and successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit from rigorous AP course work.

According to North Pocono superintendent Bryan McGraw, North Pocono is one of two Pennsylvania school districts to achieve this honor four years in a row, and one of only seven districts nationwide to achieve the listing for four consecutive years.

“This success is attributed to the faculty and students at North Pocono. In order to teach an AP class, teachers train on their own for one week in the summer at a regional location. This is completely on their own time,” explained McGraw.

“They take refresher courses to stay current in all updates to the curriculum. They have to get their curriculum approved by the College Board. This is the same organization that sponsors the SAT test. It is an extremely time consuming process.”

He continued, “The teachers challenge our students on a college level on a daily basis and demand that the students work extremely hard. Our students have accepted the challenge to take college level work while they are in high school. I am extremely proud of our whole team.”

North Pocono has added 10 AP courses since 2010, for a total of 17 classes. There are currently 389 seats filled in the district’s AP classes, with numerous students taking more than one AP class. For the current school year, AP Art and AP Macroeconomics have been added.

Other Advanced Placement classes in North Pocono include:

- Studio Art 2-D Design
- English Literature and Composition
- Microeconomics
- Psychology
- U.S. Government and Politics
- U.S. History
- World History
- Spanish Language and Composition
- Calculus
- Biology



PHOTO/ SUBMITTED

North Pocono AP teachers, seated, from left: Cynthia Riley, Kim Wasley, Kristen Wilce, Cheri Gensel and Julie Morris. Standing, from left: Brian Croom, Chris Wilbur, Maria Pettinato, Jill Davis, Maria Semidei, Hella Poehailos, Dante Marmo and Dan McShaffery. Missing from photo: John Croom.

- Chemistry
- Physics 1
- Physics 2
- Music Theory
- Environmental Science

The district hopes to add AP Statistics in the near future.

In May, students enrolled in AP classes take an exam which typically consists of multiple choice questions, essays, and open-ended questions. The tests are scored by the College Board, and students receive a grade between 1 and 5. Colleges and universities generally give college credits to students receiving a score of 3 or higher on the exam.

According to the College Board AP Students website, taking AP courses can help students in a variety of ways. In addition to learning material that is more advanced than that which is commonly taught in high school, students who take AP courses stand out during the college admissions process as more motivated than others. Furthermore, they can earn college credits while still in high school, they may be able to skip introductory courses in college, and they acquire the skills necessary to succeed as college students.

Students who enroll in AP courses have a lot to gain, and can learn a lot, while getting a jump start on their collegiate futures.

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