

Highest Number of AP Incentive Scholarships Awarded in KISD

Students are being notified this week about the record number of AP Incentive Scholarships awarded at Tivy High School in Kerrville ISD. Seniors enrolled in AP English IV, AP Calculus, AP Physics, and AP Economics received scholarships ranging from \$150 to \$200 per test. Established in 2005 by Dr. Dan Troxell to encourage seniors to take more of the rigorous AP exams, the AP Incentive Scholarship program participation has grown from 11 seniors to 47 this year. In addition, the number of tests passed by seniors increased from 12 in 2005 to 84. This year two students, Taylor Dowlen and Sarah Schlunegger, tied for the highest number of total scholarships. They each passed five AP tests to earn \$950 a piece.

There are many other AP tests that seniors can take beyond the four core subject areas; however, the AP Incentive Scholarships has been limited by the amount of funds available. This year, 71 Tivy seniors took a total of 154 AP exams, with a new record of 109 tests being passed. According to Dr. Troxell, "The success of the AP Incentive Scholarship Program is that it has encouraged all high school students to take the AP tests, whether it is a designated scholarship course or not. Students see others being successful and getting college credit, so they want to take the AP classes and participate in the exams as well."

Ellen Williams, Senior Director of Advanced Academics was thrilled with the results. "The rise in the student's participation and the increase in passing scores are both a result of quality instruction and student effort. Our goal is for every student enrolled in an AP course to learn the content well enough to pass the test and receive the college credit they deserve."

Convincing seniors to take AP courses and exams was a difficult challenge six years ago. Times have definitely changed. Today, seniors realize both the benefit of the experience in taking more rigorous courses and are equally motivated by the potential for scholarships for taking the exams. "Many colleges look not only at the GPA, but at the rigor of the course work attempted to select their candidates for acceptance," said Williams. In addition, college costs have risen dramatically. Passing an AP test and getting three hours of college credit is a great deal for any student's budget.

Supported by many local businesses in the past, the AP Incentive Scholarship Fund donors have become fewer and fewer during hard economic times. The Kerrville Public School Foundation is now the major supporter of the scholarship fund and provided \$13,400 towards it in 2010. "As district funds cannot be used for scholarships, community support is essential to keeping the scholarship program alive," said Mrs. Williams. "We cannot express enough our sincere appreciation to the Kerrville Public School Foundation for their generous support."

AP Incentive Scholarships Awarded Since 2005

Year	# of Seniors receiving AP Incentive Scholarships	Total number of AP tests passed	Total amount of scholarships awarded
2005	11	12	\$2,025
2006	29	45	\$7,950
2007	26 (smaller senior class this year)	37	\$6,050
2008	31	50	\$8,550
2009	44	78	\$13,250
2010	47	84	\$14,350