



CVUSD students excel in Advanced Placement classes and their average score is higher than California and the Nation

14% more CVUSD students had top score of 5 on AP tests when compared to those taking the tests in 2015

Not only are more Chino Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) students taking Advanced Placement tests that allow them to receive college course credit, but their mean scores this spring are higher than the national and state average.

Don Lugo High experienced a significant increase in the number of students taking AP classes – up by 73%. Overall, 200 more CVUSD students took AP tests this year than last. This is an 11.43% increase in the number of exams taken in the district.

Other schools increased the number of students taking the AP exam including Ayala High, 14.3%; Chino High, 9.5%; and Chino Hills High, 0.40%.

The increase in students at Don Lugo taking the test has administrators at the school pleased. Don Lugo High Principal Dr. Kimberly Cabrera said the increase is likely the result of at least three factors: More of her students who qualify for free or reduced school meals can afford to take the tests because the district began offering it to them for \$5 each instead of the regular \$93 cost; the school added three new AP courses and plans to add more in the next two years; and Don Lugo's Capturing Kids' Hearts program has teachers encouraging their students to challenge themselves by taking one or two AP courses.

"Our staff is strongly supported by the administration to try new strategies and build new courses," Cabrera said. "As a result, they have become excited by the opportunity they have to build their courses, and have encouraged students to take their AP classes, making sure that students know that they will also be supported by their teachers."

CVUSD mean score higher than state, nation

CVUSD has a mean score for all AP exams of 2.97 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest. This is higher than both California and national mean scores which are 2.88 and 2.85, respectively. A mean score is an average of all the test scores taken by a particular group.

More than 3,884 exams were administered in 28 different subjects in the district. Of the 160 CVUSD high school students who took the Spanish Language and Culture AP class, 92% scored 3 or higher. Ninety percent of the 129 CVUSD students in the Calculus BC AP class scored 3 or higher. Of the 58 students in the Microeconomics AP class, 79% scored 3 or higher. Of the 302 students who took the Psychology AP class, 75% scored 3 or higher.

Those classes are offered at all four of the District's comprehensive high school sites: Ayala, Chino, Chino Hills, and Don Lugo. Each of the District's comprehensive high schools and three alternative high school sites administered at least one AP examination.

More students taking AP classes and the students performing better than the state or national average points to a rigorous academic program that is challenging students and better preparing them for college, district officials said.

"CVUSD is working to provide access to more and varied AP classes on all our campuses," said Julian Rodriguez, Director of Assessment and Instructional Technology for the district.

"Additionally, we are concentrating on preparing our students so that more of them score a 3 or higher and are eligible for college credit."

What does the AP do?

Students earning high scores on the AP tests may be eligible to receive college course credit or placement in classes without first taking prerequisite courses. Students take AP courses in preparation for the examinations.

The tests are administered by the College Board, a not-for-profit organization that prepares students for transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success, including the AP and the SAT, a college entrance examination.

The final score of the AP is reported on a 5-point scale, in which 5 is extremely well qualified, 4 is well qualified, 3 is qualified, 2 is possibly qualified, and 1 is no recommendation for credit. Qualified means a student is capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at college. Many colleges and universities grant credit and placement for scores of 3 and up. Each college decides which score it will accept for credit and placement.

(Posted on Web, FB, Twitter on 8/16/16)