

Passing grade for CHS AP History students

For first time in school's history, all of the students in the program pass a competitive test

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COVENTRY — After much hard work and preparation, 25 students from Coventry High School's Advanced Placement history program passed their test, making this the first time in 19 years that 100 percent of the students have succeeded.

Social studies teacher and curriculum coordinator Matthew Brissette explained that the test is administered through a group called the College Board, the same group that offers the SATs.

"This is the first time that 100

percent of the students have passed," he said proudly. "We've had the program for eight years and every year the scores have gone up."

He said the two-part test consists of 80 multiple choice questions and various essays. The students have to answer a document based question on any topic dating from 1619-2012.

The test is graded on a scale from one to five. Getting a three is passing, a four is above average and a five is the highest score you can receive.

"A lot of colleges like to see a four or five," he said. "The vast ma-

ajority of the juniors got fours and fives."

Brissette said nine students scored a five and the average scores for the class equaled a 4.1.

The Advanced Placement (AP) history program is a two-year program offered to sophomores. The students are given multiple opportunities to practice and study for the test, which is given in May at the end of their junior year.

Coventry High School Principal Michael Hobin said he often stops in on the class to show the students that he's paying attention to their effort.

Senior Jennifer Carey said she

took decided to enroll in the class before she enjoys history and wanted a challenge. "Throughout the two years I thought the class was really hard but in the end it was rewarding," she said.

Senior Gianna Rocchio said she took the class because she also wanted a challenge.

"I heard it was a hard course and I always like to challenge myself and I heard he [Mr. Brissette] was a good teacher," she said. "It was definitely rigorous and I had a lot of homework but he made history interesting and while there was a lot

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of work I loved it.”

Hobin explained that the AP history program teaches the students about more than just history. He said students learn how to write research papers, read documents, do a bibliography and debate.

“I love the program because I think it helps them prepare for college,” Brissette said. “Most of the students who have graduated and gone to school will tell you it prepared them for college.”

Carey said all the students were nervous on the day of the test but after all the preparation she said everybody felt confident.

“Right after the test we felt like we nailed the writing parts,” said Rocchio “We were all really excited because it was the first time everybody has passed.”

The students who passed the test are as follows: Conner Briden, Jennifer Cary, Brian Crossman, Sarah Doiron, Alaa Eid, Frank Field, Caitlin Fife, Matthew Forde, Selena Fortes, Scott Francis, Kristin Gallagher, Ashley Ginda, Jennifer Haley, Alexandria Heredia, Samantha Jones, John Lomi, Lauren Neary, Alec Perry, Amanda Petteruto, Haley Pittman, Gianna Rocchio, Patrick Shea, Nathan Stinehour, Zachary Szymkowicz, and Kaitlyn Turcotte.