

AP classes improve in Coventry

Superintendent touts teachers as reason for success & principal agrees

ANITA E. BAFFONI
abaffoni@ricentral.com

COVENTRY— Students from Coventry High School in advanced placement (AP) courses did extremely well this past school year, according to Superintendent Mike Almeida, and he said the student success should be attributed to the teachers.

The curriculums in the AP courses are equivalent to the requirements of a full-year college level course. Students enrolled in these courses invest more time, energy and study in order to do well and receive the college credit. There is a final advanced placement examination at the end of the school year, and this past school year, there was a significant improvement in the amount of students who passed the exam.

Coventry High School Principal Michael Hobin said he is pleased with the hard work and dedication of the students and teachers and explained how this is a testament to the teachers aligning their curriculum to engage the students with the advanced course load.

“The students are continuing to do unbelievably well and have done better than last year’s scores,” Hobin said. “In calculus, chemistry and biology, the students have had a significant improvement.”

Hobin explained that this year in the three out of the nine AP courses available at Coventry High School, the amount of students who pass the final examination scored particularly higher than last year.

Success in improving scores seen in Coventry

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In chemistry, 66 percent of students passed the exam, biology there was 82 percent who passed and in calculus, 83 percent passed whereas last year 47 percent of students enrolled passed.

There are seven teachers who teach a specific section of an AP course which may include Physics, English Language, U.S. History and Psychology, among other courses. Hobin said that the teachers have done a few training courses to help with the advanced curriculum in the sections they teach.

"The teachers have worked hard to get the students to pass the course," Hobin said.

Each year, students request to be placed in the various AP courses and they must pass the course in addition to taking the final examination. A student can pass the course but fail the final exam and if this happens, the student will not receive the college credit. The student can also fail the course but pass the final examination but Hobin said that doesn't happen too often

because the course curriculum is very complex and demanding.

The AP courses are nationally recognized by colleges and universities. Coventry High School also has an Early Enrollment Program (EEP) that works directly with Rhode Island College (RIC) to get future students credit for their high school course. The student must receive a grade of 75 or better in order to get RIC course credit.

There is a small fee for the final examination for the AP courses and is the responsibility of the student. The fee is collected at the end of the first quarter of the school year. Junior and senior students are welcome to take any AP course.

Like Hobin, Almeida was proud of the accomplishment and ready to congratulate those whose efforts made it happen.

"I want to commend the teachers for working hard to align their instruction to the AP program standards and on the other hand, to the students who have engaged in dedicating and committing themselves to learning at the pace that is required," Almeida said.