



For Immediate Release: December 16, 2019

Jefferson Township High School Placed on the College Board’s 10th Annual AP[®] District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Student Access and Success

250 School Districts Across the U.S. and Canada Are Honored

Oak Ridge, New Jersey — Jefferson Township High School is one of 250 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 10th Annual AP[®] District Honor Roll. To be included on the 10th Annual Honor Roll, Jefferson Township High School had to, since 2017, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that this district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

“I would like to congratulate our students, teaching staff, and administration on an incredible accomplishment. The teachers do a terrific job of preparing our students for success in school and in life. The students do their part in preparing throughout the school year for academic success. The ability to foster student achievement at the highest levels is what being an AP student is all about. I am so proud to work with this top notch team of educators and I look forward to the continued success of our student body!” (Timothy Plotts, Principal)

National data from 2019 show that among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more of these students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be opened equitably. Jefferson Township High School is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

“With more students participating and succeeding in AP in this district, more students are getting a head start on college by earning college credit during high school,” said Trevor Packer, senior vice president of AP and Instruction at the College Board. “We are pleased to honor the teachers and administrators who have worked to clear a path for more students of all backgrounds to advance through AP.”

Helping more students learn at a higher level *and* earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.

In 2019, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion in the 10th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2017 to 2019, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture.

For inclusion on the 10th Annual AP District Honor Roll, districts must meet the following criteria:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking exams and increase or maintain the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and
- Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2019 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2017 percentage, *unless* the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30% or more are underrepresented minority students (American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander) and/or 30% or more are low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

The complete 10th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found **here**:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/awards/district-honor-roll>

About Jefferson Township School District

Jefferson Township is a rural-suburban community located in the northwest corner of Morris County 40 miles west of New York City. The township is known for being a year-round recreational center encompassing 42 square miles, including the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey's largest fresh water lake, and many other lake communities. Jefferson Township has a population of over 20,000 residents.

Jefferson Township High School is a comprehensive public high school with an enrollment of approximately 1000 students in grades nine through twelve. The school system is accredited by the NJ Department of Education. JTHS offers 28 interscholastic sports and 51 co-curricular activities.

JTHS prides itself of being an inclusive school. As such, JTHS annually sponsors a unified track meet with neighboring school districts through the Special Olympics Unified Sports Program. In addition, JTHS is recognized by NAMM as a Best Community for Music Education for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Jefferson Township High School offers a challenging and rigorous curriculum that is designed to meet the diverse educational goals of its students. The program of studies includes 35 Honors level courses and 24 Advanced Placement courses in the areas of English, social studies, mathematics, science, business, world languages, art, and music.

JTHS students are given an opportunity to complete an independent study that reflects an accelerated and expanded study in relation to the regular school curriculum. During 2016-2017 school year, JTHS welcomed its first cohort of freshman students to the Academy of Environmental Studies. This highly selective program is part of the Morris County Vocational and Technical School and is open to qualified students from Morris and other neighboring counties.