

Looking At The ISSUES

October 26, 2007

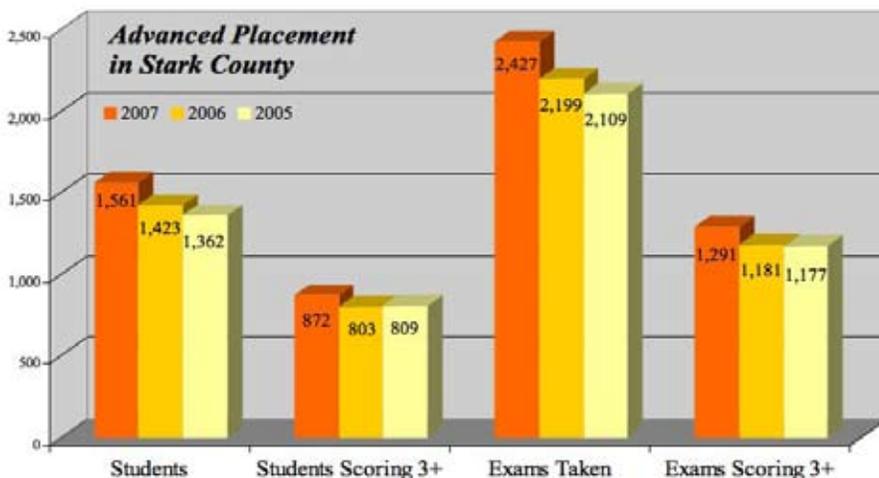
AP Coursework Continues to Increase in Stark

AP can change your life. Through college-level AP courses, you enter a universe of knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in high school; through AP Exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities. – The College Board

Since 1955, Advanced Placement (AP) courses have been a way for students to experience college level coursework while in high school. AP has been so successful that 90 percent of the nation's colleges and universities now have policies granting students college credit, placement, or both, for a qualifying score of three or higher on AP course exams.

Though taught in high school by high school teachers, AP courses are constructed to be the equivalent of first year college courses. Teachers and programs must meet rigorous standards set by the College Board, designers of the SAT test.¹

In Stark County, the number of students taking AP courses and scoring three or higher has steadily increased over the last three years. As such, AP coursework is becoming a critical college access strategy for the county. This is particularly important as a new study has found that AP students, "earn higher college GPAs and have higher four-year graduation rates when compared to students with similar SAT scores and socioeconomic backgrounds who did not take AP courses and exams."²



Looking At The Week

On October 25th, Dr. Joseph Rochford was notified by the U.S. State Department that he has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant (Fulbright grants support short-term assignments for U.S. scholars to work with foreign universities) to consult and teach at the Kisubi Brothers Center. The Center is the site of Walsh University's Education Leadership program in Uganda.

¹For more information, visit the College Board's AP Central at: <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/program/index.html>

²The College Board (2007). Advanced Placement Report to the Nation. Available at: <http://www.collegeboard.com/press/releases/152694.html>