

An Indianapolis  
Classical  
High School



110 East 16th Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202  
317-231-0010  
[www.herronhighschool.org](http://www.herronhighschool.org)

# PRESS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 15, 2010**

## **HERRON HIGH SCHOOL RANKS 26<sup>TH</sup> IN THE NATION IN NEWSWEEK'S "AMERICA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOLS"**

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Karen Lalioff  
Herron High School  
E-mail: [klalioff@herronhighschool.org](mailto:klalioff@herronhighschool.org)  
Phone: 317.231.0010 x6

INDIANAPOLIS: Herron High School ranks #26 in the nation in Newsweek's list of "America's Best High Schools." The report uses a "Challenge Index" to determine a school's academic rigor based on Advanced Placement (AP) course participation.

According to the report, "Newsweek picks the best high schools in the country based on how hard school staffs work to challenge students with advanced placement college-level courses and tests." Only 6% of the nation's public schools made the list. The full report can be found on their website.

At Herron High School, the staff does work hard to challenge students. Last year more than 40% of the student body participated in college level coursework. The high rate of participation in AP coursework reflects the school's philosophy that AP courses should be open to students of all abilities.

"We're extremely proud of this national recognition," said Janet McNeal, the Head of School. "As a college preparatory high school, our goal is to provide all students with the skills, knowledge and desire to succeed in a college environment. We do not limit college level courses to our top students; we encourage any student of average ability to participate."

Concerted efforts are made to increase participation within the diversity of student subgroups. In order to help level the playing field, the school uses grant money to support the costs of the AP test for the 43% of low-income students.

"Test scores are important of course, but the likelihood of achieving a credit bearing AP test score is secondary to the importance of increasing our students' exposure to rigor," McNeal added.

--MORE--

“The emphasis on participation has allowed Herron High School to significantly increase enrollment in AP courses over all, particularly in our free and reduced lunch population,” said McNeal. “Last year the school doubled the number of FRL students in our AP enrollment over the previous year.”

A study conducted by U.S. Department of Education senior researcher, Clifford Adelman, revealed that students who have taken AP courses in high school are better prepared and have greater academic success in college, regardless if their AP test score was high enough to bestow the hoped for college credit.

“We may not achieve the highest credit bearing AP test scores, but that’s a hit we’re willing to take in order to provide challenging college-level course work to the greatest number of students. Creating a culture of rigor is what being a college preparatory is about. We appreciate the fact that Newsweek recognizes the importance of high participation levels.”

Greg Lineweaver, Herron High School’s Dean of Faculty, adds that this sort of educational achievement is dependent upon the teachers who think every day of new ways to reach and inspire students. “Our success is the result of committed and reflective teachers, a unified vision, and a relentless desire to always do what’s best for our students.”

This dedication to student success has paid off - 100% of graduating seniors in Herron High School’s inaugural graduating class of 2010 has been accepted to one or more colleges and universities, and received over \$3 million in scholarships.

### **About Herron High School**

Herron High School is a college preparatory school serving the near north side and surrounding communities. Founded in 2005 and located at 16<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania, Herron High School is a public charter school open to all students. Dedicated to providing a classical, liberal arts education for students in grades nine through twelve, Herron offers an integrated curriculum and creative methodology which utilizes an art history timeline. This approach aids students in assimilating knowledge by connecting logical relationships between subjects. With small class sizes and individualized attention, Herron’s classical education includes Latin, art, music and rhetoric as well as rigorous math and science classes to provide a truly unique high school experience. For more information, visit [www.herronhighschool.org](http://www.herronhighschool.org).

Herron High School is not associated with Herron School of Art and Design at IUPUI.

####