Buford High School AP Students Top in the State

MEDIA CONTACT: Kerri Leland, BCS Director of Communications, (770) 945-5035, kerri.leland@bufordcityschools.org

February 6, 2020 – On Thursday, February 6, 2020, the College Board released data showing Georgia’s public-school class of 2019 has the 17th-highest Advanced Placement (AP) pass rate in the nation. With that State School Superintendent, Richard Woods named 255 AP Honor Schools for 2020.

“I commend the students, teachers, and staff of these 255 schools,” Superintendent Woods said. “Behind this recognition is an enormous amount of hard work, and I congratulate all those who worked to expand access, improve performance, and build strong Advanced Placement programs in each school recognized today.”

Buford High School (BHS) was one of 70 Georgia high schools recognized as an AP School of Distinction which is classified as schools with at least 20% of the total student population taking AP exams and at least 50% of all AP exams earning scores of 3 or higher. This is the 5th year BHS has been recognized in this category. Over the past decade, BHS has increased the number of students taking AP courses (127 in 2008 vs 473 in 2019), the number of AP exams taken by those students (196 in 2008 vs 895 last year), and the overall success rate (35.71% in 2008 vs. 75.30% in 2019).

“Our AP teachers have built a culture of excellence based around the phrase ‘rigor with support.’ Also, because of the generosity of our Board of Education in paying for all AP exams, our students enter the course with a success mindset,” College Board AP Literature Mentor and BHS AP Literature teacher, Dr. Tim Harris said. “Our students outperformed the global average on 14 different exams: Biology, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, Government, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Psychology, Spanish, Statistics, Studio Art, US History, and World History. Additionally, we had a 100% success rate in Biology, Chemistry, Spanish, and Studio Art. The combination of smart, dedicated educators and curious, engaged students has allowed us to create a robust AP program.”
Buford High School was also recognized as an AP STEM School, as well as an AP STEM Achievement School. A high school is recognized as an AP STEM School when the school has a minimum of five students testing in at least four AP STEM courses (AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics 1, AP Physics 2, AP Physics C, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles). To be named to as an AP STEM Achievement School an AP STEM school (see prior definition) must have at least 50% of all AP STEM exams earning scores of 3 or higher.

“Being recognized by the Georgia Department of Education as an AP Honor School in three separate categories is a prestigious recognition of excellence,” Buford City Schools’ (BCS) Director of Curriculum, Dr. Amy Chafin remarked. “We are very proud of the expansion of our AP programs at Buford High School. These programs offer rigorous coursework that ultimately prepares our students for post-secondary success. Our teachers and students are to be commended for the preparation and dedication required to achieve at this level.”

“This high level of academic achievement is a testament to not only our fantastic high school teachers but to all the teachers in the lower grades as well who laid the educational foundation for these students,” Buford City Schools’ Superintendent, Dr. Robert Downs said. “I appreciate how diligently our Buford High School AP teachers work to make sure their students are prepared for the AP exams and their efforts show in having pass rates far exceeding the global average.”