



Academic Success Committee



WMHS
Spring 2023



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Purpose: to examine ranking systems and analyze district data related to our academic achievement

Goal: to partner with the Board of Education to develop policies & procedures that will foster academic growth



Top 3 Ranking Systems

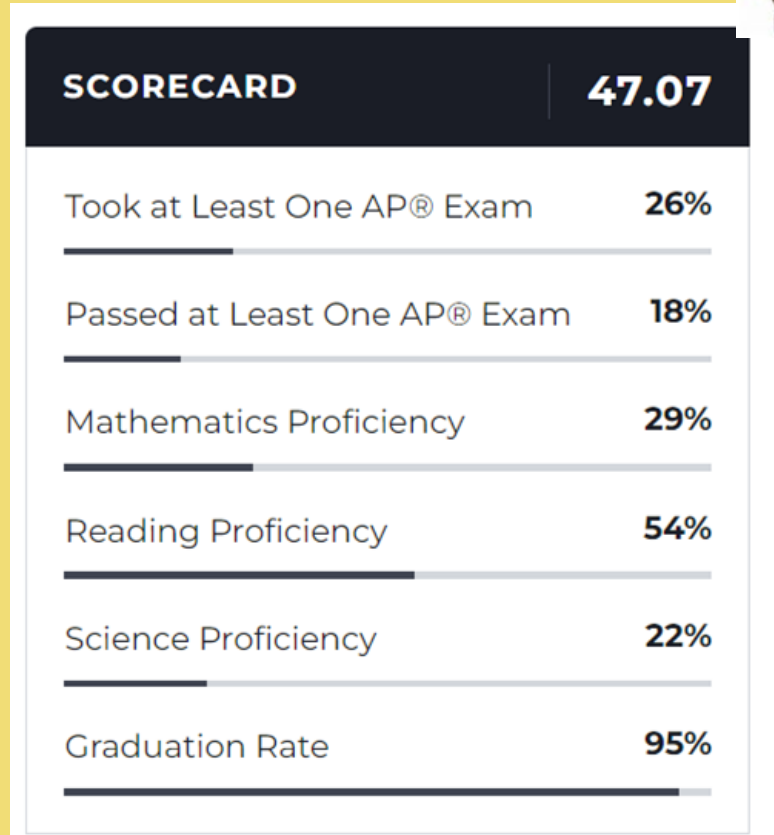
- US News
- GreatSchools.org
- Niche

We will primarily focus on US News during this discussion.



2022 WMHS US News Ranking

295th of 406





US News Rankings

- **80%** of the total score comes from assessment data (NJSLA, AP)
 - **College Readiness (30%)**
 - % of 12th graders who took ≥ 1 AP test
 - **College Curriculum Breadth (10%)**
 - % of 12th graders who took ≥ 4 AP tests

In these categories, three-fourths of the score is dependent on students passing the exams with a score ≥ 3 .



- **State Assessment Proficiency (20%)**
 - Score comes from school's performance on math/reading NJSLA scores compared to state scores overall

- **State Assessment Performance (20%)**
 - Score come from *expected* math/reading NJSLA scores based on demographics

- The remaining 20% of the overall score comes from the Graduation Rate (10%) and Underserved Student Performance (10%)



2023 AP Exams Administered at WMHS

# Students Taking Exam(s)	Total Exams Administered	# Students Choosing Not to Take The Exam
116	201	13

Goal: To have 100% of students enrolled in an AP course take the exam.

AP Score Scale Table

AP Exam Score	Recommendation	College Course Grade Equivalent
5	Extremely well qualified	A+ or A
4	Very well qualified	A-, B+, or B
3	Qualified	B-, C+, or C
2	Possibly qualified	---
1	No recommendation	---



2022 WMHS AP Exam Scores

Totals for this view ?	1	2	3	4	5	Total Exams
Number of Exams	10	46	45	63	33	197
Percentage of Total Exams	5%	23%	23%	32%	17%	100%
Number of AP Students	10	40	38	51	24	

- 72% of exam scores are proficient (score of 3 or higher)
- Goal: To Increase proficiency to 80% of exam scores.



Recommendations for Improvement in this Category

- Require all students enrolled in AP courses to take the exam
- Consider covering a portion of the test fee for lower income families, students taking multiple exams, & families with multiple children testing.
- Expectations for AP course rigor must be made clear prior to enrollment so the pacing and depth can meet College Board requirements.
- Consider re-establishing an entry requirement prior to enrollment in an AP course.



- As an additional incentive, offer a partial refund of exam fee for students who earn passing grades. (50% refund for a 5, 40% for a 4, 30% for a 3)
- Celebrate the AP culture! Reward those students with a breakfast or some other activity after the AP exam period.
- Highlight the success of the AP program and share stats for graduates who have earned college credit.



Additional Recommendations

- Increase Dual Enrollment opportunities
- Expand our Senior Initiative program
- Advertise the Senior Initiative options to both students & parents starting in junior year via:
 - Class meetings
 - Website
 - Back to School Night
 - Hometown Pride
 - Scheduling Conferences



WMHS Dual Enrollment 2022-23 Offerings

- Creative Writing
- Advanced Creative Writing
- Journalism 4
- Tomorrow's Teachers
- Anatomy & Physiology (Bio 1/Bio 2)
- Digital Art 2

Of 53 students enrolled, only 22 are actually paying for the credits.

Coming in 2023...

- Criminal Justice
- Women's Studies
- Auto
- World Cuisines
- Intermediate Computer Science

Expansion of Senior Options Can Include:



**Dual
Enrollment**

School  to
WORK 





Suggestions for Improving Our State Proficiency & Performance Scores

- Increase vertical articulation between Macopin & WMHS
- Review recently released 2022 NJSLA scores to determine whether current placement procedures for acceleration into Algebra 1 & Geometry in grades 7-8 are appropriate & successful.
- Consider establishing a minimum grade requirement to advance from accelerated courses in Macopin to WMHS.
- Consider making prior year's NJSLA score a data point in determining placement in accelerated courses.



Culture & Climate - Student Time In Class

What can we do to support and motivate students academically?

- We would like to take a look at the “frequent flyers” who are often late to class and out of class (bathroom/nurse or absent).
- We would use this data to analyze these students and their grades and test scores.
- We would like to work with student organizations, such as PALs and support staff to help mentor and monitor these students.
- We must inform students how standardized testing impacts them.
- Revisit the policies for lates and absences.