

Columbia High School Update and Year in Review

Success of the Year
Middle States Report
Current Challenges and Future Steps

Board of Education Meeting

July 18, 2016

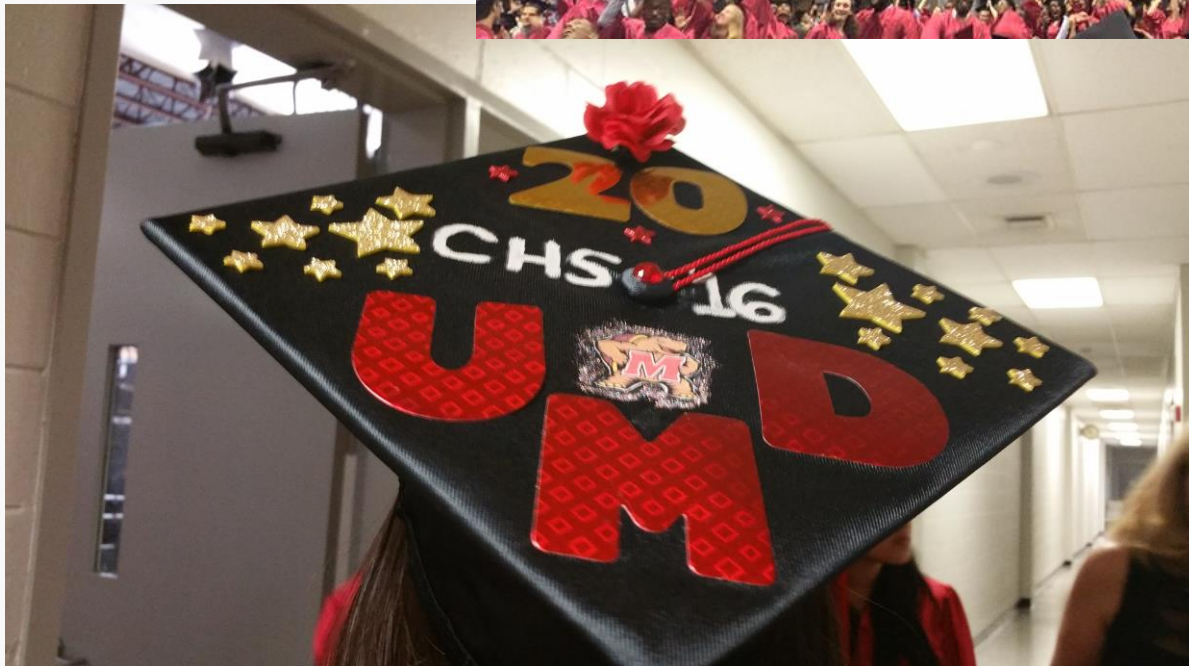
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June 22, 2016



Prom 2016
June 20, 2016
Westmont Country Club
82% of seniors attended





Summer 2015 Graduation



Class of 2016

(385 of 422 reporting as of 6/30/16)

- 8 HBCUs
- 6 Ivy League universities
- 6 Jesuit Universities
- USAF and US Army
- Increase in number of students with 'Gap Year' plans
- Americorps
- Job and certificate programs: tech, auto repair, pet grooming, health fields
- Summer school: 4-8 seniors preparing for August 11 graduation

2015 *Silver Medal* in US News and World Reports' ranking of high school, placing CHS in the top 4% of high schools in the US and top 10% in NJ

And this just in:

- NJ Science League: Physics team: 6th in the state (6 tests over 15-16 school year)

Senior Stars



Communication and Engagement

Families and Community:

- *Let's Talk*
- Bi-weekly *From the Principal's Desk* Updates
- Redesigned *Home and School Association* Website, HSA meetings attended by principal
- Twitter: @CougarPrincipal
- AM New and announcements posted each day on CHS website for families
- CHS Home page at www.somsd.k12.nj.us updates and links
- Administrative team presence at and participation in school and community events
 - Community Coalition on Race, Parenting Center events, \$NotinOurTwoTowns

Programming, Academic Planning, Student Development:

- Guidance Department uses **Naviance** for grade-specific information and especially for seniors through the college process
- 4 **grade-level** parent/guardian nights
- Grade-level meetings each year at start of scheduling process
- Group and individual counselor meetings for scheduling
- Black Box conversations and Spring 2016 Superintendent's Conversations
- Cougar PAC (Principal's Advisory Committee)

Academic Offerings and Planning/Communication about Student Progress:

- AP Forum (evening) and AP student-led outreach program (Saturday morning)
- AP symposium led by MAC scholars
- Back to School Night in September
- Powerschool Parent Portal
- CHS *School in Action* night (spring)
- 4 report cards, 4 midterm progress reports
- Counseling visits to middle schools in winter/spring 2016 (2)
- 9th grade preview (December) and 9th grade information night (May) with student speakers

School Culture and Climate, Inclusion and Diversity

- SEED
 - MAC and MSAN conference for students and staff
 - Mini Mac program started in 2015-16
 - *Week of Respect* in September
 - Inclusive curriculum work (department and supervisor-led)
 - Diversity Rocks
 - POWER
 - Spectrum
 - North Jersey GLSEN Meet and Greet
 - Fall 2016 staff and admin presenting on a panel at conference on LGBTQ climate and inclusion
 - Principal's Advisory Council (PAC)
 - Captains' Council, SEC leadership conference
 - Elementary School programs: Reading Buddies, Elementors, The Next Step
 - Community Conversations on Race (Coalition on Race)
 - #NotInOurTwoTowns community event and school/towns pledge
- SY 16-17 Professional Learning for CHS staff begins with allyship article, viewing of student and staff comments at May and June 2016 Public Speaks at Board of Education, and is being designed in collaboration with Dr. Kyati Joshi, consultant to the Board of Education on diversity, inclusion, and cultural competency.

Hiring and retention of teachers and staff at CHS:

Since July 1, 2013: **13** teachers/admins of color hired at CHS

SY 16-17: Student teaching partnership with MSU.

Black Student Union at Summit High School Hosted CHS Student Leaders in February at Sankofa Festival





This is a non-gendered
restroom.



The Next Step: CHS students take the lead on developing new programs



Peer Leadership and School-to-School Engagement...



...and its impact



The Middle States Visiting Team **commended:**

- Strong foundational documents;
- An historic yet challenging facility, which meets the needs of its community;
- A climate conducive to learning;
- A challenging college preparatory academic program; a school rich in resources;
- A caring and talented faculty, staff and administration;
- Solid athletic and extra-curricular activities for its students;
- And its most precious resource - capable, talented, and polished young men and women – all committed to maintaining a high quality educational program.

The visiting team's **key recommendations** are:

- Greater communication between building (students, faculty, administration) and district personnel in terms of financial resources, facility usage, teacher supervision and curriculum development.
- Greater visibility for the Mission, Beliefs and Graduate Profile.
- Transparent strategic planning for the future of the facilities and allocation of resources.
- The expansion of the current action plans.

Content and Extracurricular Connections and Activities

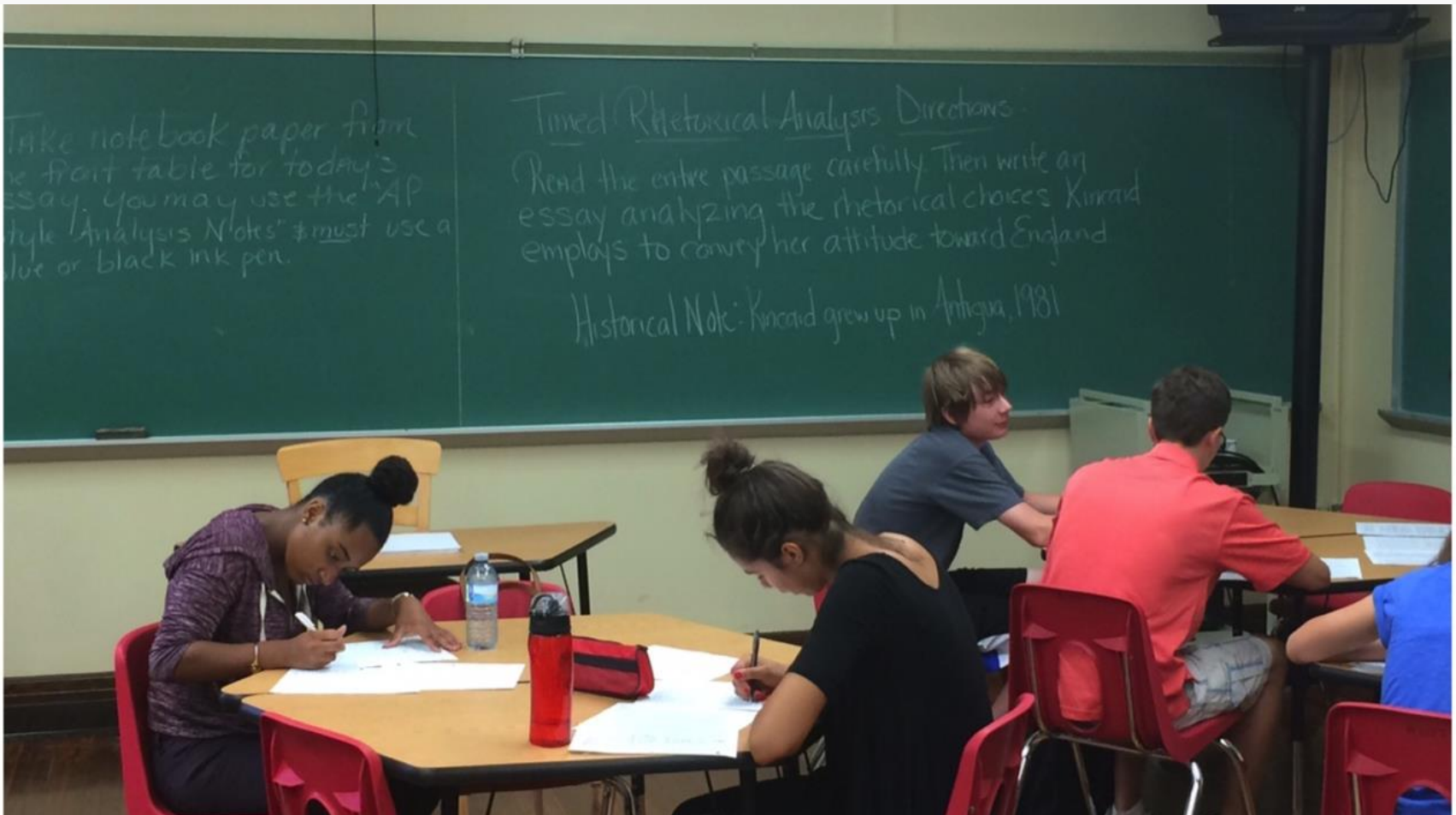


College and Career-Readiness



The Vice President of Human Resources at a major hotel chain visits CHS Personal Finance class to discuss interviews, resumes, and job-hunting.

*Building facilities and renewal represent the old and the new:
chalkboard, Chromebooks,
furniture designed for collaboration and engagement.*



The Year Ahead

- *New administrators* in SOMSD
- *Engagement in community/SOMSD strategic planning* with awareness of CHS facilities, budget, staffing, and scheduling realities
- Counseling Department *structural changes* (9-12)
- Continued development of *PARCC implementation*, scheduling, and awareness/readiness for families and community
 - Confusion around portfolio process
 - Confusion around structure, timing, and scheduling of test as per state testing rules
- Using *department-based data team analysis* to identify areas for growth and ways to replicate success in course content mastery

The Year Ahead, cont'd.

- Developing *credit recovery* programs for implementation during the school year
- Building on growth of *positive behavior intervention programs and restorative practices* where needed and appropriate
- Strengthening parent and student awareness of brain health, drug and alcohol issues and dangers, rise in use of off-use prescription medication and synthetic drugs
- Developing *academic and social supports* for all students and families
- *Strategic planning* with faculty based on Middle States goals
 - Reducing core content area course failures
 - Increasing student participation in and use of college- and career-readiness indicators
 - Organizational structures and addressing building/ facilities renewal to facilitate best practices in teaching and learning

Key Areas for Growth

- Differentiated **professional development growth** and PLCs for teachers according to needs
- **Maximizing schedule and student needs** with budget and staffing cuts
- Making **media center** a 21st-century maker, thinking, creativity, and research center
- Partnering with **corporate, university, and community partners** to leverage opportunities for our students and families
- A more **flexible, 'secondary'/alternative school setting** for students with those needs , especially overage and undercredited students
- Continuing support and education of **brain and emotional health and drug and alcohol awareness** for students, staff, and families
- Support systems for students' academic and social development in alignment with Access and Equity Policy

Effective Teacher Professional Development:
Differentiated PLCs
Connected to School and District Goals
Improves Instruction and Student Achievement



Expanding Opportunities and Rethinking Structures

- Condensing a teacher/student split schedule into one bell schedule
- Providing supports for students moving into higher level courses
 - Lunch period tutoring and study hall structures
 - Library hours
 - Google classroom and Edmodo support for parents/guardians
 - Achieve tutoring partnership
 - *Using faculty and department meeting time and additional prep time during condensed bell-schedule for small group data work and teacher-directed PD*

I & RS January-June 2016

- Referral and case management for 33 students
- 4 referred for Special Education services
- Surfaced:
 - Reading levels
 - Vision problems and other medical conditions
 - Teacher Leadership (presence, advising, and participation in meetings)
 - Use of objective observations and performance data, PowerSchool forms, tracking student progress with Google Docs

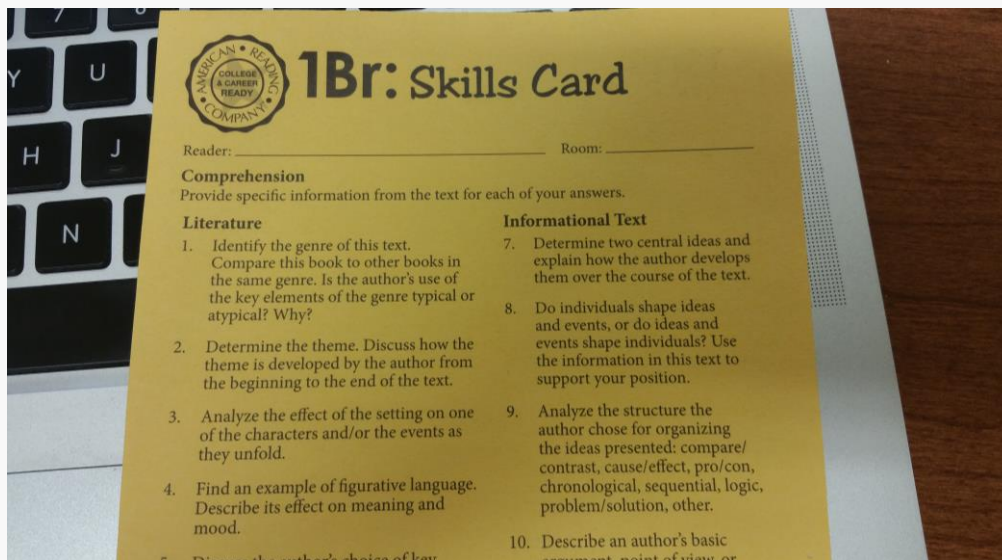
CHS recently opened *one of only 2 iGem labs in a high school* in New Jersey.



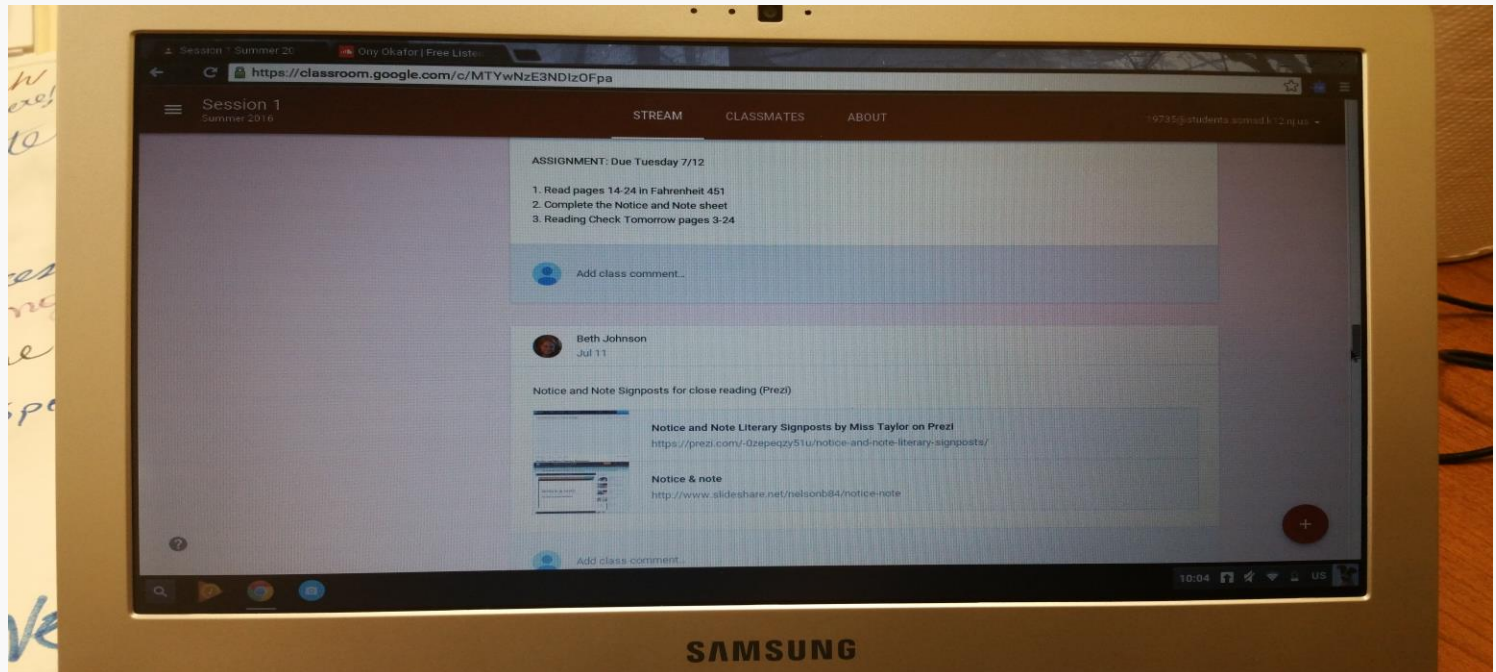
The opening of this synthetic biology lab was the result of collaboration between CHS teachers, supervisors, administrators, and custodial and facilities staff.

Summer Programs Snapshot

- Credit Recovery Summer School
 - 40 9th graders
 - 27 10th graders
 - 21 11th graders
 - 13 12th graders (4- 8 on track for August graduation)
 - US History I and II, World History, English 9, 10, 11/12, Algebra I and II, Health/PE, Chemistry)
- Redesigned Cougar Prep (incoming 9th graders)
- Physics and Biology Academy
- Math Courses for Credit



American Reading Company Program for incoming 9th Graders included PD for teachers and opportunity for teacher leadership in program coordination.



Google Classroom for *Fahrenheit 451* with tutorials.

(FLEXIBLE ACADEMIC SUPPORT TIME)

Students entering grades 9-12 can come to CHS during these hours(see chart below) to work on:

- Summer math packets (CHSmath.com – click on summer assignments)
- Summer academy assignments
- Summer school credit recovery work
- AP assignments
- SAT or ACT practice books
- SAT or ACT practice on khanacademy.org, or
- Get assistance with college essay writing

ELA Support – Ms. Andrews – Rm. A136 (enter thru CHS front door) Fri, 7/8 1:00 – 3:00pm Mon, 7/11 – Thurs, 7/14: 1:30 – 3:30pm Mon, 7/18, Tues, 7/19: 1:30 – 3:30pm Fri, 7/29: 1:30-3:30pm Mon, 8/1 – Fri, 8/5: 1:30 – 3:30 pm Mon, 8/15 – Thurs, 8/18: 8 – 10 am Mon, 8/22– Fri, 8/24: 1:30 – 3:30 pm	Social Studies/ELA Support – Mr. Fradkin Rm. D112 (enter door between Café/Black Box Theater) Mon, 7/11 – Thurs, 7/14: 11am-3pm Mon, 7/18 – Thurs, 7/21: 11am -1pm Fri, 7/29: 11am -1pm Mon, 8/1 – Thurs, 8/4: 11am – 1pm
Math/Science Support – Mr. Tumolillo – Rm. D200 (enter door between Café/Black Box Theater) Mon, 7/11 – Fri, 7/15: 11:30am-1:30pm	Comp Sci/Math Support: - Dr. Stornetta – Rm. D207(enter door between Café/Black Box Theater) Wed, 7/6 – Fri, 7/8: 1- 3pm Mon, 7/18 – Thurs, 7/21: 1- 4pm Mon, 8/1 – Thurs, 8/4: 1-4pm Mon, 8/8 – Thurs, 8/11: 9-11am & 1-4pm Mon, 8/22 – Wed, 8/24: 9-11:30am

Snapshot: Core Content Failures 9th Grade

- Lowest number of students needed credit recovery in biology (9th) and physics (10th) in *past 5 years*.

	<u>SY:</u> '15-16	'14-15
Grade 9 ELA Failures (4 passed academically)	41 (8%)	66 (13%)
Grade 9 Math Failures (3 passed academically)	38 (7%)	60 (11%)
Grade 9 World History (6 passed academically)	40 (8%)	68 (13%)
Grade 9 Biology (1 passed academically)	49 (9%)	39 (7%)
Total Number of 9th Graders	508	524

Administrative Team Leadership and Engagement

- Assistant Principal: Doctoral Research on I & RS
- Assistant Principal: Summer Leadership at NJ Department of Education
- Principal:
 - Visit to US Department of Education in May 2016 and essay forthcoming in National Association of Secondary School Principals
 - Panelist at MSU Graduate School of Education Panel on School Leadership
 - High School Principals' Roundtable (Livingston, Millburn, East Orange, West Orange, Bloomfield, Nutley, Summit, Caldwell, Lenape Valley Regional)

Access and Equity/Enrollment Update

- AP Enrollment for SY16-17: **doubled enrollment over SY15-16***
 - Approx. 768 requests for AP courses
 - (SY 15-16: 422 students enrolled in AP courses)
- ***All students who requested were enrolled in 1 or more AP courses***
 - seniors on course for AP as their next sequential course in an area of study
 - seniors taking first AP course
 - other students who were sequenced to take course
 - other students who were taking first AP course

June 22-July 15: School counselors resolved all scheduling conflicts with students/families.

The impact of the Access and Equity policy is a significant increase in all students and in students of color choosing to take an AP course at Columbia High School.

VARIABLES: staffing, facilities use, scheduling all other courses, ‘singletons’, courses with double labs, # of AP-certified teachers

AN EYE TOWARD SUPPORTS: unified schedule, study halls, NHS and Achieve tutoring, online and in-school study support and groups, department assessment of student progress and needs throughout SY16-17 year (with eye toward 17-18 programming as needed), identifying skill gaps and readiness indicators where needed

*** Will have an impact on spring 2017 AP exam administration needs**

AP Enrollments, SY16-17*

AP Art History: 51
Studio Art AP: 6
AP English Lang/Comp: 65
AP English Lit/Comp: 36
AP Computer Science: 27
AP Statistics: 88
AB Calculus: 45
BC Calculus: 77
Music Theory: 27
AP Biology: 56
AP Chemistry: 49
Environmental Science: 20

AP Physics: 29
AP European History: 33
AP Psychology: 66
US History I: 169
US History II: 130
Gov/Pol US: 33
Gov/Pol Comparative: 33
French: 19
Spanish Language: 79
Italian: 9
Spanish Literature: 12

1, 159 total

*July 15, 2016