

Report on AP/Honors Program at ASFG

2019-2020

Introduction

This is the 34th year that the American School Foundation of Guadalajara has offered Advanced Placement classes. The program prepares students for the rigor of university level study by offering college-level classes, taught by highly trained ASFG teachers. Students enrolled in these classes take the AP exam in May and receive credit from many universities with a passing score of three or higher.

The year 2020 will be remembered as the year of the pandemic, Covid19. Due to this world wide situation the College Board had to adapt the exams by administering them on line, making them shorter, and evaluating less content compared to previous years. Nonetheless, keeping the rigor that allows students to present their AP results to highly qualified universities to receive credit for their studies.

Results

A. Participation

The AP program serves a significant portion of our students; in 2019-2020, 150 students took at least one AP exam, down from 159 students the year prior. This represents the involvement of 44.51% of all grade 9-12 students in the AP program (total of 337 students in HS), which represents an increase compared to last year's student involvement of 43.92%

In total, students took 271 AP exams, 250 of which were taken after students completed one of the 20 corresponding AP courses offered at ASFG, or in a few cases, after receiving tutoring from an ASFG teacher. This number is down from 315 total exams taken last year, 294 of which were taken after

students completed one of 22 corresponding AP courses. The average number of exams taken by each ASFG AP student was 1.8, down from 1.98 the year prior.

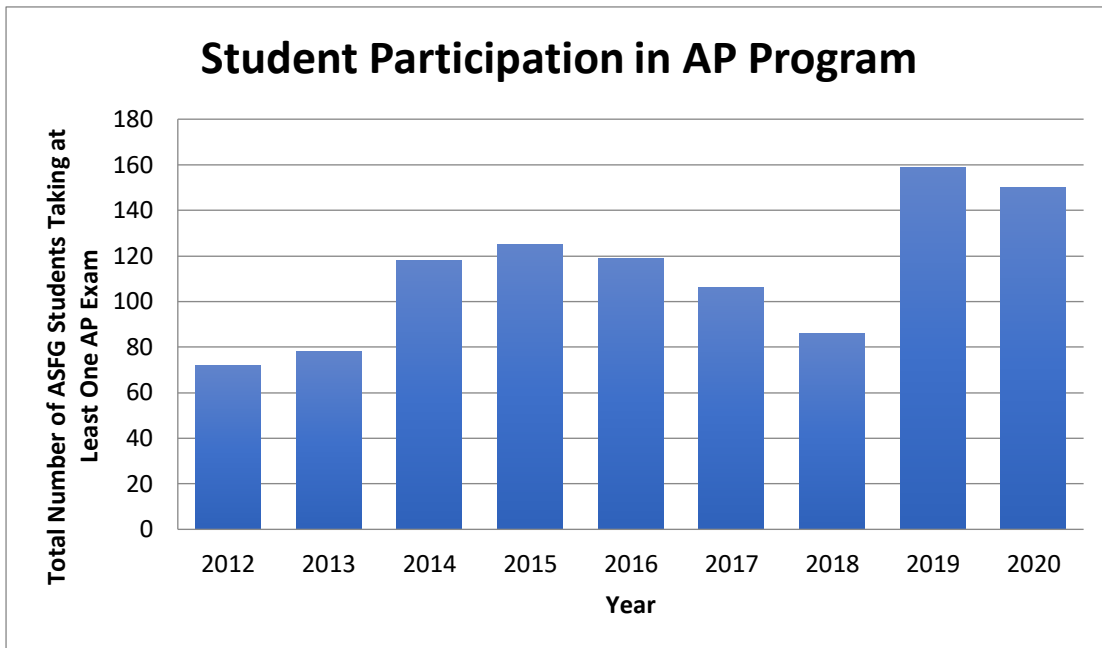
School Year	Total number of AP Exams	Number of exams for which students received lessons from ASFG teacher	Number of courses offered	Average number of exams per student
2013-2014	212	198	13	1.81
2014-2015	230	215	14	1.84
2015-2016	233	221	15	1.96
2016-2017	223	208	19	2.10
2017-2018	164	144	17	1.90
2018-2019	315	294	22	1.98
2019-2020	271	250	20	1.81

The 20 courses offered in 2019-2020 were: 2D Art and Design, 3D Art and Design, Biology, Calculus AB, Comparative Government and Politics, Computer Science Principles, Drawing, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Environmental Science, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Physics 2, Capstone Research, Capstone Seminar, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture, United States History, and World History.

Student Participation in AP Program

School Year	Number of students taking at least one AP exam out of total number of students grades 10 th -12 th up to 2018. Starting in 2019 the total number of students are from 9 th -12 th grade.	Percentage
2013-2014	118 out of 251	47.00%
2014-2015	125 out of 253	49.40%

2015-2016	119 out of 254	46.85%
2016-2017	106 out of 254	41.73%
2017-2018	86 out of 259	33.20%
2018-2019	159 out of 362	43.92%
2019-2020	150 out of 337	44.51%



Note: Starting in 2019, freshmen started taking AP exams, therefore the increase on the number of students is notorious starting on this year.

In 2020, students took 21 exams for which they did not receive instruction from an ASFG teacher. These exams were in the areas of 2D Art and Design (1), Calculus BC (1), Computer Science Principles (1), French Language and Culture (1), Physics 1 (1), Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism (5), Physics C Mechanics (2), and Spanish Language and Culture (9)

B. Pass Rates and Mean Scores

The following tables show the number of exams and percentages of exams passed with a score of 3, 4, and 5 or failed (score 1 or 2) for the last six years. These tables only consider students who took a course taught by an ASFG teacher.

2014-2015 pass rate 71.61%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
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Number of Exams	41	49	64	55	6	215
Percentage of total exams	19.06	22.79	29.76	25.59	2.80	100

2015-2016 pass rate 86%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	62	65	63	25	6	221
Percentage of total exams	28.10	29.40	28.50	11.30	2.70	100

2016-2017 pass rate 91.35%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	73	65	52	14	4	208
Percentage of total exams	35.10	31.25	25.00	6.73	1.92	100

2017-2018 pass rate 83.33%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	37	55	28	19	5	144
Percentage of total exams	25.69	38.19	19.44	13.20	3.47	100

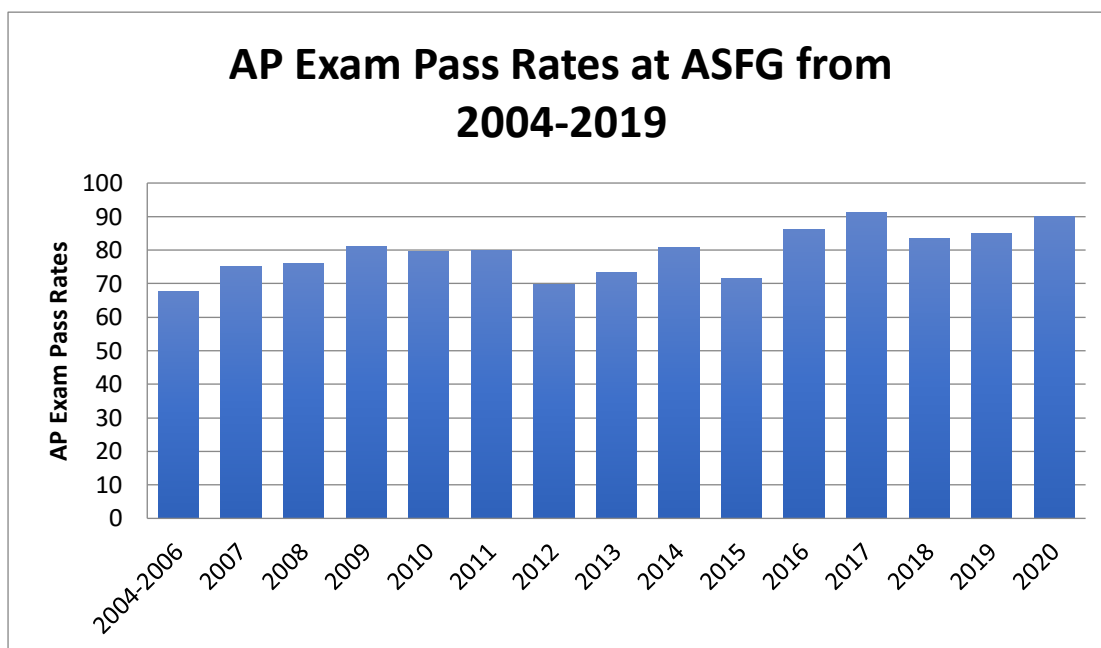
2018-2019 pass rate 85.03%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	85	93	72	34	10	294
Percentage of total exams	28.91	31.63	24.49	11.57	3.40	100

2019-2020 pass rate 90.00%

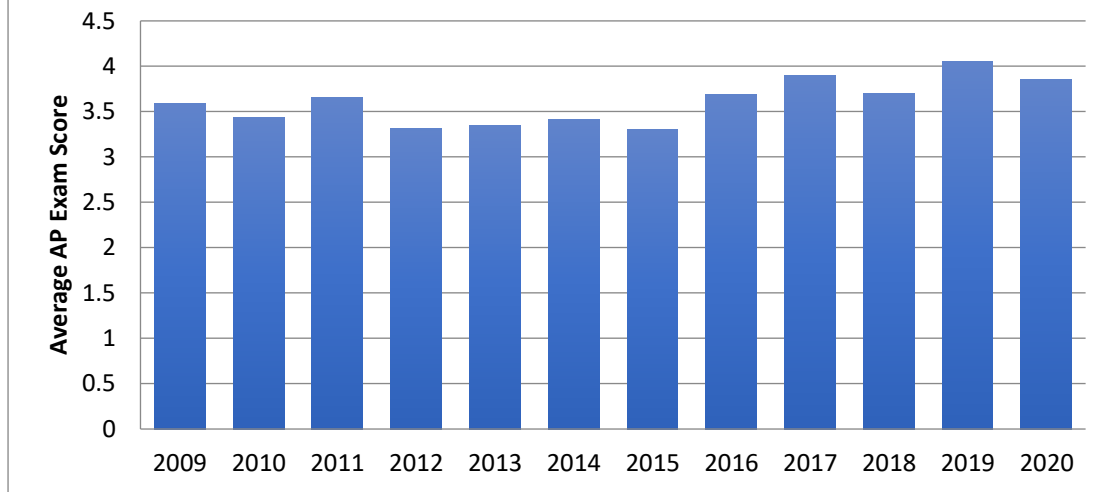
School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	62	94	69	19	6	250
Percentage of total exams	24.80	37.60	27.60	7.60	2.40	100

Out of 250 exams administered from which students took classes from an ASFG teacher, the resulting pass rate was of 90.00% (225 exams passed out of 250 exams administered). This is an increase of 4.97% compared to last year's pass rate of 85.03%.



The average AP exam score for all tests taken by AP students for which they received instruction from an ASFG teacher went down from a 4.1 in 2019 to a 3.85 in 2020.

Average AP Exam Score for All Tests Taken by AP Students



C. School Totals by Score and Course

The table below shows the total of AP exams taken by ASFG students and their scores by course. These students were taught by an ASFG teacher.

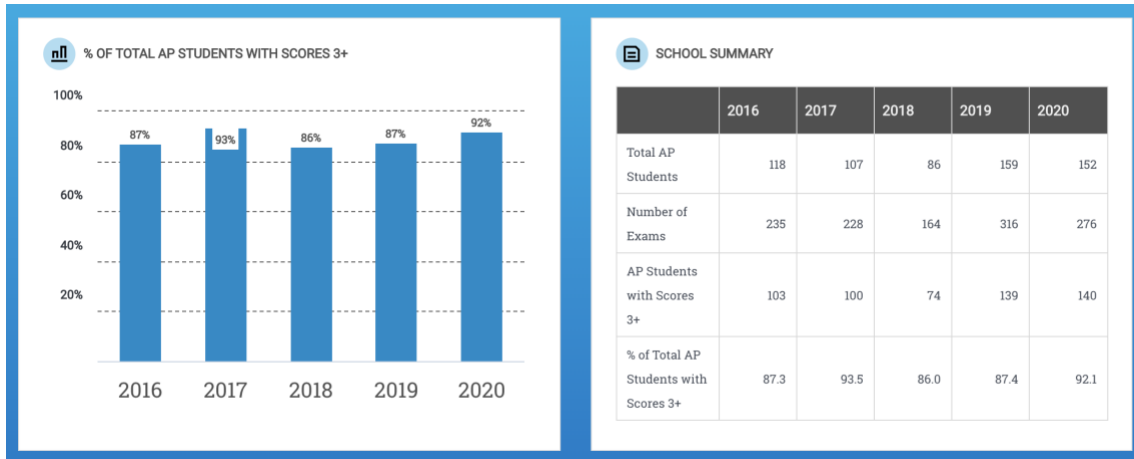
Course Name	5	4	3	2	1	Total exams passed	Passing rate per course
2D Art and Design	2	1	2			5/5	100%
3D Art and Design	4	3				7/7	100%
Biology		4	6	2	1	10/13	76.9%
Calculus AB	8	3	2	1		13/14	92.2%
Comparative Government and Politics	3	8	3			14/14	100%
Computer Science Principles	2	6	6	4	1	14/19	73.7%
Drawing	1	2				3/3	100%
English Language and Composition	1	4	5			10/10	100%
English Literature and Composition	2	2	1			5/5	100%
Environmental Science	2	3		3	1	5/9	55.6%
Human Geography	6	11	5	1	2	22/25	88.0%
Macroeconomics	6	3	4	2		13/15	86.7%

Course Name	5	4	3	2	1	Total exams passed	Passing rate per course
Microeconomics	5	7	2	1		14/15	93.3%
Physics 2	2	5	3	2		10/12	83.3%
Research	1	8	4	2		13/15	86.7%
Seminar	2	6	18			26/26	100%
Spanish Language and Culture	1	1				2/2	100%
Spanish Literature and Culture	9	4	4			17/17	100%
United States History	3	5	1	1		9/10	90.0%
World History	2	8	3		1	13/14	92.9%
Totals 2020	62	94	69	19	6	225/250	90.0%

As can be observed from the table above, this year, there were nine courses that had a 100% passing rate: 2D Art and Design, 3D Art and Design, Comparative Government and Politics, Drawing, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Seminar, Spanish Language and Culture, and Spanish Literature and Culture.

Also, worthy of note, 24.80% of the exams got a 5, 37.60% got a 4, and 27.60% got a 3. Meaning that 90% of the exams taken by ASFG students passed with a score of 3 or higher. Compared to last year's 85.03%, the number of exams passed went up by 4.97%.

The following charts shows the College Board's five-year summary report for our school. These include all of our students, meaning the ones that took an AP exam and studied by themselves, as well as the students that took a course with an ASFG AP Teacher, and unfortunately two external students. Considering that the participation of these two students is not very meaningful it can be observed that the percentage of total AP students with a score of 3+ increased from 87.4% last year, to 92.1% this year.



D. AP Scholar Awards 2020

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college level achievement through AP courses and exams. This year there were a total of 50 scholars recognized with an average score of 4.08. Compared to last year, the number of scholars decreased from 67 to 50 (17 less students received an award) and the average score stayed at 4.08.

The table below shows the number of AP Scholar Awards and average score since 2016.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
AP Scholar Awards	54	45	38	67	50
Average score	3.78	3.98	3.29	4.08	4.08

1. AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher in three or more AP exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	1	3	6	10	3.36
2014	0	7	5	12	3.44
2015	0	11	4	15	3.45

2016	0	7	11	18	3.28
2017	1	7	6	14	3.70
2018	1	9	3	13	3.73
2019	2	7	7	16	3.96
2020	1	6	8	15	3.66

The number of students receiving this recognition decreased by one and the score average decreased from a 3.96 last year to a 3.66.

2. AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and score of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	0	4	1	5	3.80
2014	0	3	5	8	3.59
2015	0	2	4	6	3.97
2016	0	8	7	15	3.78
2017	0	6	1	7	3.77
2018	0	7	4	11	3.80
2019	0	6	5	11	3.85
2020	0	10	2	12	3.68

The total number of students receiving the AP Scholar Award with Honor increased by one, while the score average decreased from a 3.85 to a 3.68.

3. AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	0	3	5	8	4.58
2014	0	6	6	12	4.08
2015	0	9	6	15	4.21
2016	0	5	16	21	4.04
2017	0	5	18	23	4.09
2018	0	6	8	14	4.27
2019	0	6	19	25	4.25
2020	0	5	18	23	4.26

During 2020 the total number of students receiving the AP Scholar with Distinction Award decreased from 25 to 23 students with an average of 4.26.

4. AP International Diploma: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams in three or more subject areas.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2015	0	2	4	6	4.40
2016	0	2	3	5	3.79
2017	0	2	3	5	3.93
2018	0	2	3	5	3.89
2019	0	1	6	7	4.19
2020	0	2	5	7	4.36

As can be observed from the table, the number of students that have been granted this award remained the same, while the average score increased from a 4.19 to a 4.36.

5. AP Capstone Diploma: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2017	0	0	8	8	4.23
2018	0	0	1	1	3.22
2019	0	0	7	7	4.06
2020	0	1	8	9	4.17

As can be observed 9 students received the AP Capstone Diploma this year. Compared to last year the number of students receiving this award increased by two and the average score also increased from 4.06 to 4.17.

6. AP Seminar and Research Certificate: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2017	0	0	2	2	3.11
2018	0	0	1	1	3.29
2019	0	0	1	1	4.00

2020	0	0	4	4	3.53
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As can be observed four students received this award with an average score of 4.0. Substantial increase in number of students and score, compared to the previous years.

E. Magic Number

Due to the fact that for the last two years, ninth graders have been involved in the AP program; two magic numbers will be analyzed. The first one, to continue with the statistics since the creation of the magic number, will consider students grades 10-12. The second one will involve students grades 9-12.

a) Exams passed to number of high school students grades 10-12

The magic number refers to the total number of AP exams passed each year as compared to a fixed, enrollment-adjusted potential of 200 students in grades 10th through 12th. This measure accounts for variations in high school enrollment. In addition, it is in accordance with the high school's philosophy of increasing participation while maintaining a rigorous classroom environment. This is because it is possible to improve both pass rates and mean scores solely by increasing the selectivity of the application process.

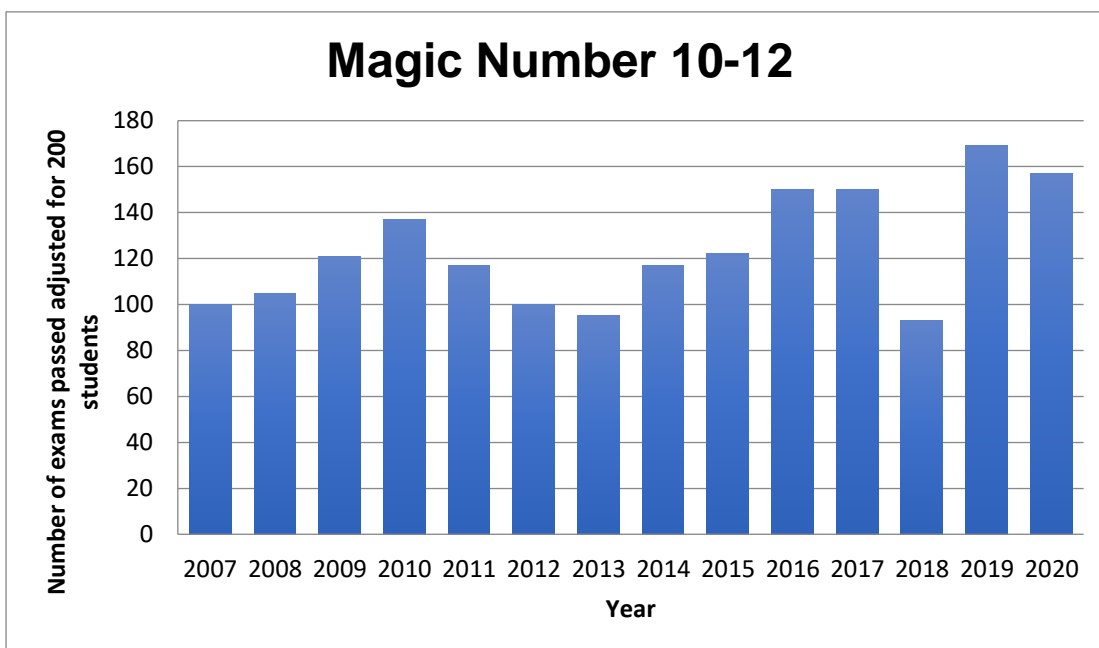
This year's magic number is 157 exams passed per student body of 200, this represents a decrease of 12 exams compared to last year's magic number of 169.

To reach the magic number of 157:

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of exams passed (instruction by ASFG teacher)}}{\text{Total number of high school students grades 10-12}} = \frac{x}{200}$$

$$\frac{201}{256} = \frac{x}{200}$$

x= 157 exams passed per a student body of 200 grades 10-12



It can be observed from the table that the magic number decreased from 169 to 157, which is only 12 exams less compared to last year.

b) Exams passed to number of high school students grades 9-12

Considering all the students that took an AP exam in 2020:

Total number of AP Exams: 271

Total number of exams, no ASFG teacher instruction: 21

Total of AP exams taken for which students received instruction from ASFG teacher: 250

Total of AP exams passed for which students received instruction from ASFG teacher: 225

Total of AP exams failed for which students received instruction from ASFG teacher: 25

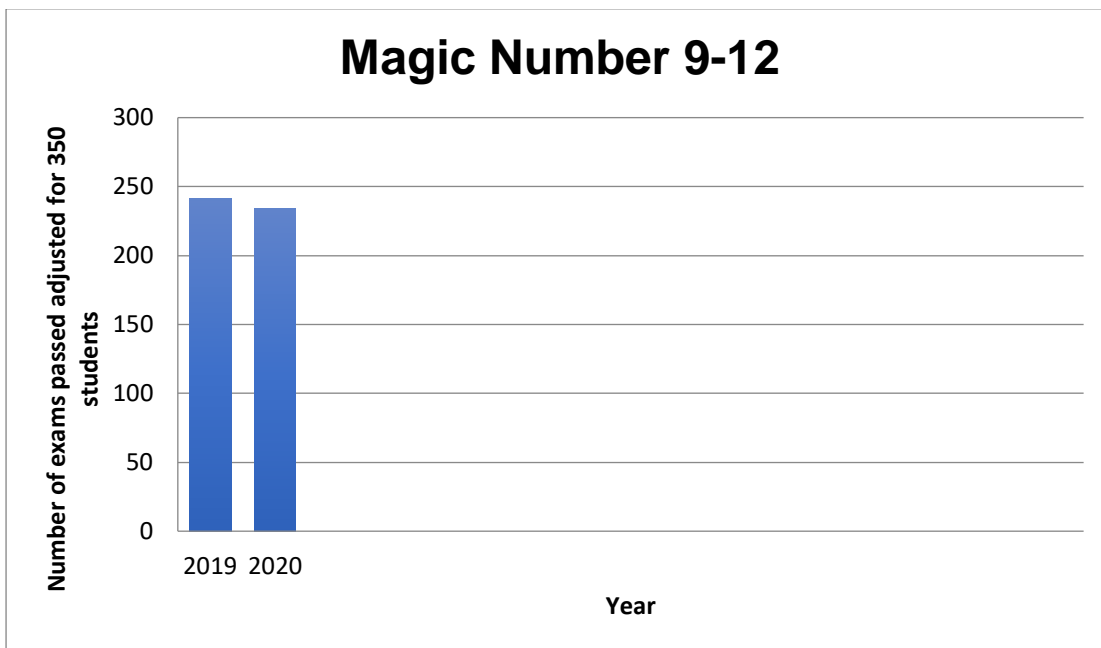
Total number of 9th grade AP exam: 27 (24 passed with a 3+)

This year's magic number, grades 9 -12 is 234 exams passed per student body of 350

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of AP exams passed (instruction by ASFG teacher)}}{\text{Total number of students enrolled in grades 9th through 12th}} = \frac{x}{350}$$

$$\frac{225}{337} = \frac{x}{350} \quad x=234$$

This means that "for every 350 enrolled students in grades 9th-12th we have 234 passing AP exams (3+)." Seven less than last year of 241.



This change is not significant if we consider the changes the College Board had to do last minute due to the pandemic. Our students prove that no matter the situation they are very well prepared and that the learning goal was accomplished.

Highlights

A. Year 2019-2020

- Student involvement in the AP program increased from a 43.92% of all grade 9-12 to a 44.51% even though there were less students participating this year because the high school population was also less (362 to 337).
- In total, students took 271 AP exams, down from 315 exams taken last year.
- 250 exams were taken after students completed the corresponding AP courses offered at ASFG. This number is down from 294 exams taken last year.
- The average number of exams taken by each ASFG AP student was 1.8, down from 1.98 the year prior.
- Number of courses offered went down from 22 to 20. AP Chemistry is only offered every other year and there was no help given by an ASFG teacher for Physics 1.

- 90.00% of the exams taken by ASFG students were passed with a score of 3 or higher (went up from last year's 85.03%).
- Nine AP courses had 100% passing rate.
- The average AP exam score for all tests taken went down from a 4.10 in 2019 to a 3.85 in 2020.
- The Magic Number, grades 10-12, changed from 169, the previous year, to 157 exams passed out of a constant population of 200 students. A decrease of 12 exams.
- The Magic Number grades 9-12 changed from 241 the previous year, to 234 exams passed out of a constant population of 350 students. A decrease of 7 exams.
- There were 50 scholars that were recognized by the AP program, receiving AP Scholar Awards, 17 less students compared to last year. Their average score remained at 4.08.
- Teachers keep on encouraging students to challenge themselves by taking AP Courses.
- The AP Five-Year School Score Summary, comparing our student's performance with other students in Mexico and globally was not part of the AP statistic results this year. Instead the AP College Board gave a comparison of the school's performance during the last five years. The percentage of total AP students with a score of 3+ increased from 87.4% last year, to 92.1% this year.
- Relevant topics to reflect:
 - a. AP workshops for all new teachers.
 - b. AP workshops on a rotating basis for veteran teachers.
 - c. Increase pass rates.
 - d. Congruency between AP scores and course grades.
 - e. New system for enrolling students for AP Exams.
 - f. The College Board created MyAP which is a platform with resources and tools for teachers and students. Overall teachers and students liked this platform and found it useful.

- g. The pandemic played an important role this year, nonetheless this did not discourage teachers and students to perform at their best.

Conclusion

Once again, it was an excellent year for AP exams despite of the pandemic and all the changes the College Board made so students could take their exams with honesty and keeping the rigor. The last quarter was tough for teachers and students, nonetheless the performance of each and every one who participated is to be praised. Percentages and numbers were kept within the highest during, at least, the last ten years.

The Magic Number (grades 10-12) decreased from 169 to 157 exams passed for which students received instruction from an ASFG teacher. This magic number considers a population of 200 students.

The Magic Number (grades 9-12) decreased from 241 to 234 exams passed for which students received instruction from an ASFG teacher. This magic number considers a population of 350 students.

There were 50 scholars that were recognized by the AP program, receiving AP Scholar Awards. The mean average scores for each of our courses is well above the average mean score for Mexico, the US, and globally.

There is still room for growth in two different ways: a) for courses that have already grown in the number of students, passing rates must increase also; and b) in courses that have a small number of students we need to invite more students to be challenged but maintaining the same rigor and high standards of the courses. In other words, we should continue to focus on participation and performance.

The Academic Stress Management Policy is still in place, requiring any student that wishes to partake in more than two Honors or AP courses to engage in a review process in which teacher input is gathered by counselor, Serena Millstone, to provide a holistic reflection

on each student's academic abilities, preferences, and overall well-being.

In conclusion, all AP teachers along with the students work hard to maintain the high expectations of an AP course, to keep up with the standards and academic goals required by the College Board and The American School Foundation of Guadalajara.

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AP and Honors Head