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TWELVE PATERSON PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS TO OFFER ADVANCED PLACEMENT CAPSTONE DIPLOMA PROGRAM IN 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Program focuses on college-level research, collaboration, and presentation skills needed for college and career success

PATERSON – In keeping with the district’s mission of preparing students for college and career, Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer announced today that 12 of the district’s high schools will offer the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma Program beginning in the 2019-20 school year. The schools will be among the approximately 1,800 schools worldwide that offer the program that allows students to develop research, collaboration, and communication skills to help them achieve success in college and in their careers.

“Make no mistake, this is a challenging program. Students who participate will work hard and do more than what the state requires to finish high school,” Shafer said. “But meeting great challenges means great rewards. And students who meet the challenges of the AP Capstone program will be ready for college and able to achieve career success. Most importantly, they will be equipped with skills that can enable them to have a very positive impact on the world.”

“Making the AP Capstone Diploma available at Paterson’s Choice high schools meets the district’s objective to prepare our students for prosperous careers through academic rigor and developing essential skills,” said Paterson Public Schools Associate Chief Academic Officer Eric Crespo. “We encourage all Paterson students, whether they are in high school or looking forward to beginning high school, to consider the AP Capstone program as an investment in their own future successes.”

The 12 high schools that will offer the AP Capstone Diploma Program in the fall are the district’s “Choice” high schools. They are the secondary school programs that are thematically oriented to particular careers and fields.

The 12 high schools are:

- Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts
- Academy of Health Science (a.k.a. HARP Academy)
- Garrett Morgan Academy
- International High School
- P.A.N.T.H.E.R. Academy
- The School of Architecture and Construction Trades (at the JFK Educational Complex)
- The School of Business, Technology, Marketing & Finance (at the JFK Educational Complex)
- The School of Education and Training (at the JFK Educational Complex)

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- The School of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (at the JFK Educational Complex)
- The Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Tourism School (at Eastside High School)
- The School of Government & Public Administration (at Eastside High School)
- The School of Information Technology (at Eastside High School)

The AP Capstone Diploma Program consists of two courses taken in sequence: AP Seminar and AP Research. Students who score a 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP exams of their choosing earn the AP Capstone Diploma. This signifies outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who score a 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research (but not on four additional AP Exams) earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

AP Seminar, typically taken in 10th or 11th grade, is a project-based learning course. Students choose and evaluate complex topics. They identify credibility and bias in sources. They develop arguments in support of a recommendation. Official AP Seminar assessments include research reports, written arguments, and presentations completed during the academic year.

The subsequent AP Research course is also a project-based course. Students design, execute, present, and defend a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest. They build on skills developed in AP Seminar by learning how to understand research methodology and employ ethical research practices. They also collect, analyze, and synthesize information to contribute to academic research. Each student's official AP Research score is based on their academic paper, presentation, and oral defense.

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