



Saint Viator Reports Record Number of AP Scholars

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Now that Saint Viator officials require students in Advanced Placement classes to sit for the AP exams, they are seeing big results: this year, 78 students earned the distinction of being named an AP Scholar for their exceptional achievement on AP exams taken last spring.

Leading the group were Saint Viator's three National AP Scholars, including Anthony Pensa and Gregory Perkowski, both of Arlington Heights who are headed to Northwestern University, and Edward Zahrebelski of Hoffman Estates, who heads to Columbia University in New York.

To earn the rare distinction, they had to score an average of 4 or better on a minimum of eight AP exams over the course of their junior and senior years. This was the third consecutive year in which Saint Viator students had earned the national title.

Overall, nearly 20 percent more students than last year scored a 3 or higher, which could earn them credit at 90 percent of the nation's colleges --- and help them stand out in the admission process.

"We're thrilled," said Principal Eileen Manno. "This confirms what we've known all along, that rigorous coursework stretched across a student's four years, results in solid academic performance and readiness for college."

Officials with the College Board, who develop and score AP Exams, say only 18 percent of the more than 1.8 million students worldwide who took AP exams, performed at a level to merit an AP Scholar Award.

Another 19 students were named AP Scholars with Distinction, for having earned an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

A total of 14 students earned the title of AP Scholars with Honor, for having earned an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

The biggest group was the 42 students who earned the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams and earning scores of 3 or higher.

In all, 594 AP tests were administered in May to Saint Viator students, and of those, students scored a 3 or higher on 407 exams, or 83 percent of the tests.