

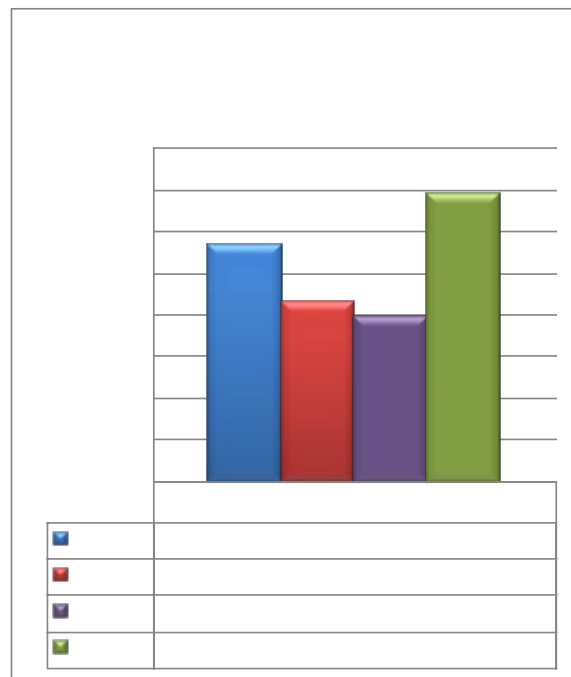
The AP Exam: Keeping you informed

At Father Lopez, we currently offer nine Advanced Placement courses. These college-level courses challenge our students to do their best, while striving to meet rigorous college standards. An integral part of each Advanced Placement course is the AP Exam, given in May every year.

AP Exams are scored on a five point scale. Colleges will typically award some college credit for AP Exam scores of three or higher. Each college awards credit differently, so parents and students are encouraged to check the admissions pages on college websites for specifics. No college credit is awarded if a student does not take an AP Exam, no matter how well he or she may have done in the course.

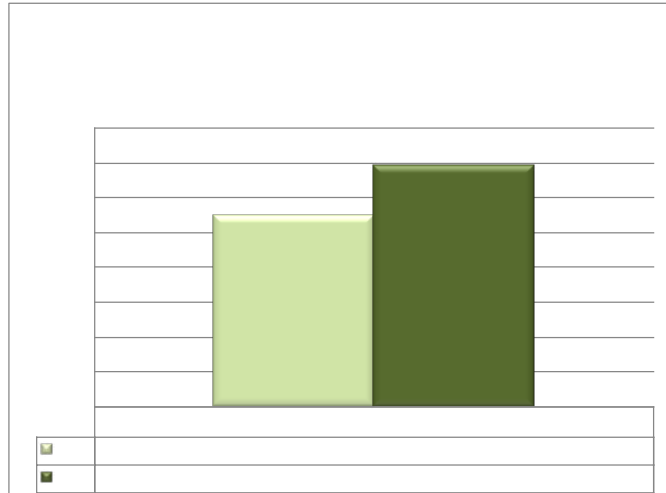
The AP Exam allows students, their parents, teachers, and colleges to see how well students have mastered the college material taught in their AP classes. For our school, the exam results help us to gauge how well we are doing in teaching the specific skills tested by the AP Exam, allowing us to focus on areas we need to improve.

We are very pleased to present the following data for our 2009 AP Exams:



As you can see, our students did better overall on their AP Exams than students at the county, state, and national levels. Of course, as mentioned in my messages about the SAT and ACT, comparing scores for different schools or groups of schools is difficult. In a small school like Father Lopez, there will be large variations in our overall average scores in any given year. As an example, in Volusia County for 2009, only 18.1% of all students in grades 10-12 took AP Exams; at Father Lopez, 27.3% of students in grades 10-12 took them. We are thus limited in drawing comparisons.

In terms of a year over year comparison, more of our students passed their AP Exams this year than did in 2008. This indicates that our students are learning more in their courses now than in the past.



Over the past two years, we have taken several actions to serve our students better, and these actions seem to be helping our AP students to achieve higher goals. Our honors classes are all focused on higher-level learning to prepare our students for eventual college work, whether in AP classes here at Lopez or in college. Our AP teachers are continuing their education by attending conferences and seminars to improve the way they teach their subjects. We have also increased our time in learning by reducing the number of “special schedules” and early releases that in the past had stolen precious instructional time from our students.

We are delighted to offer additional Advanced Placement courses this year to challenge our students in new ways: we added AP Psychology and AP Drawing to the schedule. We feel that by offering a variety of AP courses in different disciplines, we can provide opportunities for our students to go further and learn more than they might otherwise. Thank you for your support.

-Sean O’Dell, Assistant Principal for Instruction and Admissions