



NOVEMBER 12, 2008

Small School, Huge Success: 42 BASIS Tucson students named AP Scholars

BASIS Tucson is a small school with a large number of students earning recognition for their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams. At BASIS Tucson, where the core curriculum for grades 9 through 12 is built around the College Board's AP Program, 43 percent of the 98 students who took AP Exams in 2008 earned the designation. Worldwide, about 11 percent of the more than two million high school students in secondary schools who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

BASIS Tucson is a public charter school with no admission examination where all students are required to take AP Exams as a part of the high school curriculum. The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. In May 2008, 98 BASIS Tucson students took 227 AP Exams.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on student's performance on AP Exams: AP National Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, AP Scholar with Honor, and AP Scholar.

42 students at BASIS Tucson have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board. Among these 42 were five 11th graders who earned the distinction of "AP National Scholar." This is the highest AP distinction a US student can receive. It is reserved for students who earn an average grade of at least 4 out of a possible 5 on all exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on at least 8 of those exams. Only ten 11th graders in the state of Arizona were honored as Advanced Placement (AP) National Scholars, and five of those students attend BASIS Tucson.

Advanced Placement Distinctions	Percent of high school students earning distinction	
	ARIZONA	BASIS
AP Scholars	0.43%	12.24%
AP Scholars with Honor	0.17%	5.10%
AP Scholars with Distinction	0.23%	25.51%
AP National Scholars	0.03%	5.10%

These high-achieving 11th graders are Catherine Bacon, Katharine Derrick, Blake Hall, Veronica Horvath and Ian McDonald, all now members of the BASIS senior class of 2009, which only includes 25 students total.

25 BASIS Tucson students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Catherine Bacon, Matthew Balanda, Dominic Bergeman, Alexandra Birch, Sean Campbell, Michaela Carlson, Connor Cobbleddick, Joy Davies, Charles Dearmore, Molly Dee, Katharine Derrick, Siobhan Garvey, Grainne Griffiths, Blake Hall, Duncan Hasman, Veronica Horvath, Katarina Kolesikova, Ian McDon-

- ◆ Only ten 11th graders in the state of Arizona were honored as Advanced Placement (AP) National Scholars, and five of those students attend BASIS Tucson.
- ◆ Only seven 10th graders in the state of Arizona achieved recognition as an AP Scholar with Distinction, and six of those students attend BASIS Tucson.
- ◆ Only seven 10th graders in the state of achieved recognition as an AP Scholar with Honor, and four of those students attend BASIS Tucson.
- ◆ Every student in the BASIS Tucson senior class of 2009 has earned at least one 3 (considered a passing grade) on an AP Exam

ald, Kyle Merry, Christopher Nardolillo, Elizabeth Robertson, Victoria Robertson, David Stevens, Sara Turner and Emily Washburne. Only 7 10th graders in the state of Arizona achieved this level of AP Scholar recognition, and BASIS students Alexandra Birch, Sean Campbell, Charles Dearmore, Grainne Griffiths, Victoria Robertson and David Stevens were six of them.

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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E



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Five BASIS Tucson students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, **and** grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Joshua Albertson, David Gifford, Christina Marburger, Mirissa Price and Sean Saleh. Albertson, Marburger, Price and Saleh were four of only seven 10th graders awarded this level of distinction in the state of Arizona this year.

12 BASIS Tucson students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Examinations, with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are Gordon Austin, Melissa Bales, Madeleine Caldwell, Rachel Caldwell, Stephen Connolly, Alexander Davis, Patrick Graham, Alexandre Harris, Charles Johnstone, Cody Melcher, Gavin Parsons and Elizabeth Skandalakis.

In addition, every single student in the BASIS Tucson senior class of 2009 has earned at least one 3 (considered a passing grade) on an AP Exam during his/her time at BASIS. The overwhelming success of BASIS Tucson students on AP Exams has resulted in BASIS being named a Gold Medal School by US News & World Report. BASIS Tucson is very proud of all of our students' achievements, and would like to congratulate the students, their parents and their teachers for their hard work and dedication to rigorous academics.

BASIS Tucson was founded by Michael and Olga Block in 1998. Its student's successes have earned national recognition by *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report*.

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