

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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EGCSD ANNOUNCES ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLAR AWARDS

In recognition of their exceptional achievement on college-level Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations, the East Greenbush Central School District has announced that the College Board has named 25 Class of 2009 Columbia High School graduates *Advanced Placement Scholars*. In addition, 9 Columbia High School students from the Class of 2010 have also been named *Advanced Placement Scholars*. Less than 18% of more than 1.7 million students world wide, who took Advanced Placement Examinations in May 2009, performed at a sufficiently high level to merit such recognition.

Students take AP Exams in May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The exams are graded on a five-point scale, with 5.0 being the highest grade. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of full-year courses and exams.

Kathryn Burke, Justin DeSantis, Matthew Erby, Zachary Hoeffner, Jane Lu, and Elizabeth Mayor earned the title of *AP Scholar with Distinction*. In order to qualify for this honor the students were required to earn an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and score 3.0 or higher on five or more of these exams for full-year courses.

Caroline Bolarinwa, Shadai Graham, and Kelly Todd qualified for the *AP Scholar with Honor Award* by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken with grades 3.0 or higher on four or more of these exams.

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The remaining 25 Columbia High School AP Award winners earned the *AP Scholar Award* by earning an average grade of 3.0 or higher on three or more AP Exams for full-year courses. The Columbia students from the Class of 2009 are: Sandra Bender, Jared Benjamin, Matthew Carey, Kaila Collins, David Dickie, Julianne Dimura, Andrew Ewing, Alec Gladd, Nicolette Glebatis, Zeena Halepota, Melanie Katz, Ricardo Lopez-Marquez, Erin Maloney, Gina Pendolino, Jessie Signorelli, and Benjamin Tidd. Nine of the 25 students are Columbia seniors this year and also earned the *AP Scholar Award*: Kaitlyn Forbes, Kerry Gold, Sean Kelton, Jeffrey Knox, Allison Lashmet, Colleen McGrath, Christian Multunas, Conor O'Brien, and Megan Smead.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit and/or placement for grades of 3.0 or higher, and more than 1,400 institutions award a year credit (sophomore standing) to students with a sufficient number of qualifying grades. In 2008/2009 school year, there were thirty-seven AP Examinations offered in a wide variety subject areas, each consisting of multiple-choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions except for the Studio Art exam which evaluates students' original art work.

The College Board is a national non-profit membership association dedicated to preparing, inspiring, and connecting students to college and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 45,600 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves over three million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,800 colleges, through major programs and services in college admission, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the *SAT* and *PSAT/NMSQT*, the *Advanced Placement Program*, and *Pacesetter*. According to a College Board spokesperson, "The College Board is committed to the principles of equity and excellence, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns."

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