

The Top of the Class

The complete list of the 1,300 top U.S. high schools

Newsweek Web Exclusive

Canyon High School continues to show gains on the Newsweek Top of the Class high school rating program. During the last 3 years, the school has continued to climb in ranking, this year moving up from number 767 to number 545. This places the school at number 90 in California, and number 11 in Orange County, based on this scale.

To obtain these rankings, Newsweek takes the total number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge tests given at a school in May, and divides by the number of seniors graduating in May or June. AP, IB and Cambridge are important because they give average students a chance to experience the trauma of heavy college reading lists and long, analytical college examinations.

Studies by U.S. Department of Education senior researcher Clifford Adelman in 1999 and 2005 showed that the best predictors of college graduation were not good high-school grades or test scores, but whether or not a student had an intense academic experience in high school. **Such experiences were produced by taking higher-level math and English courses and struggling with the demands of college-level courses like AP or IB.** Two other studies looked at more than 150,000 students in California and Texas and found if they had passing scores on AP exams they were more likely to do well academically in college.

Canyon High School, Anaheim Hills, CA.

YEAR	RANK
2008	545
2007	767
2006	969
2005	667
2003	741