

Report on AP/Honors Program at ASFG

2020-2021

Introduction

This is the 35th year that the American School Foundation of Guadalajara has offered Advanced Placement classes. The program prepares students for the rigor of university level study by offering college-level classes, taught by highly trained ASFG teachers. Students enrolled in these classes take the AP exam in May and receive credit from many universities with a passing score of three or higher.

The school year 2020-2021 will be remembered as the year of teaching and learning through zoom because of the pandemic, Covid19. Due to this worldwide situation, the College Board had to adapt the AP exams by administering them on paper and/or online, giving the teachers and students multiple dates on which to take the exam. The AP exams kept the rigor that allows students to present their AP results to highly qualified universities to receive credit for their studies.

Results

A. Participation

The AP program serves a significant portion of our students; in 2020-2021, 175 students took at least one AP exam, up from 150 students the year prior. This represents the involvement of 49.57% of all grades 9-12 students in the AP program (total of 353 students in HS), which represents an increase compared to last year's student involvement of 44.51%

In total, students took 316 AP exams, 291 of which were taken after students completed one of the 21 corresponding AP courses offered at ASFG, or in a few cases, after receiving tutoring from an ASFG teacher. This number is up from 271 total exams taken last year, 250 of which were taken after students completed one of 20 corresponding AP courses. The average number of exams taken by each ASFG AP student remained at 1.8 exams per student.

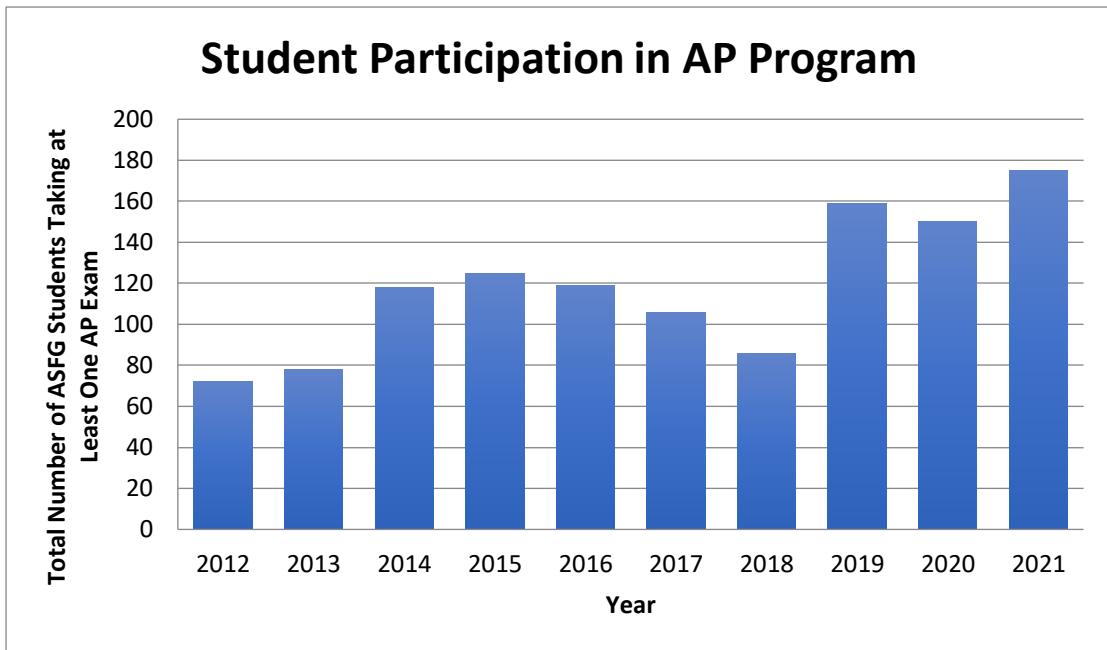
School Year	Total number of AP Exams	Number of exams for which students received lessons from ASFG teacher	Number of courses offered	Average number of exams per student
2013-2014	212	198	13	1.81
2014-2015	230	215	14	1.84
2015-2016	233	221	15	1.96
2016-2017	223	208	19	2.10
2017-2018	164	144	17	1.90
2018-2019	315	294	22	1.98
2019-2020	271	250	20	1.81
2020-2021	316	291	21	1.80

The 21 courses offered in 2020-2021 were: 2D Art and Design, 3D Art and Design, Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, Comparative Government and Politics, Computer Science Principles, Drawing, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Environmental Science, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Physics 1, Capstone Research, Capstone Seminar, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture, United States History, and Modern World History.

Student Participation in AP Program

School Year	Number of students taking at least one AP exam out of total number of students grades	Percentage
-------------	---	------------

	10 th -12 th up to 2018. Starting in 2019 the total number of students are from 9 th -12 th grade.	
2013-2014	118 out of 251	47.00%
2014-2015	125 out of 253	49.40%
2015-2016	119 out of 254	46.85%
2016-2017	106 out of 254	41.73%
2017-2018	86 out of 259	33.20%
2018-2019	159 out of 362	43.92%
2019-2020	150 out of 337	44.51%
2020-2021	175 out of 353	49.57%



Note: Starting in 2019, freshmen started taking AP exams, therefore the increase on the number of students is notorious.

In 2021, students took 25 exams for which they did not receive instruction from an ASFG teacher. These exams were in the areas of 2D Art and Design (2), Computer Science A (1), English Language and Compositions (1), French Language and Culture (3), Physics 1 (1), German Language and Culture (1), Physics C Mechanics (9), Psychology (1), and Spanish Language and Culture (6), Statistics (1).

B. Pass Rates and Mean Scores

The following tables show the number of exams and percentages of exams passed with a score of 3, 4, and 5 or failed (score 1 or 2) for the last seven years. These tables only consider students who took a course taught by an ASFG teacher.

2014-2015 pass rate 71.61%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	41	49	64	55	6	215
Percentage of total exams	19.06	22.79	29.76	25.59	2.80	100

2015-2016 pass rate 86%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	62	65	63	25	6	221
Percentage of total exams	28.10	29.40	28.50	11.30	2.70	100

2016-2017 pass rate 91.35%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	73	65	52	14	4	208
Percentage of total exams	35.10	31.25	25.00	6.73	1.92	100

2017-2018 pass rate 83.33%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	37	55	28	19	5	144
Percentage of total exams	25.69	38.19	19.44	13.20	3.47	100

2018-2019 pass rate 85.03%

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	85	93	72	34	10	294
Percentage of total exams	28.91	31.63	24.49	11.57	3.40	100

2019-2020 pass rate 90.00%

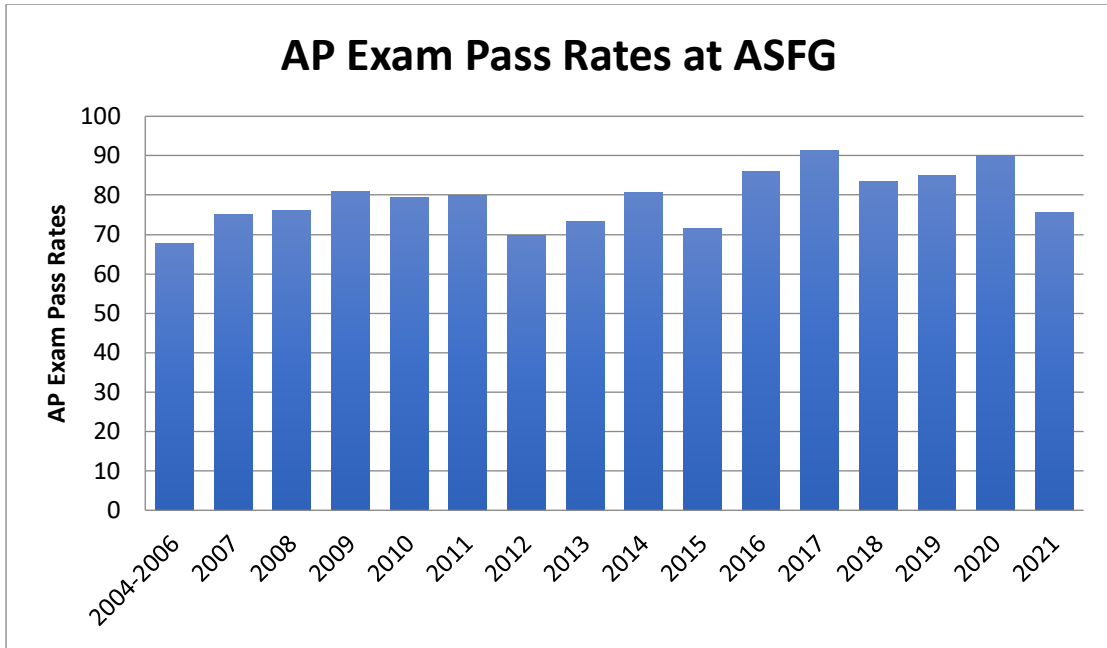
School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	62	94	69	19	6	250
Percentage of total exams	24.80	37.60	27.60	7.60	2.40	100

2020-2021 pass rate 75.60 %

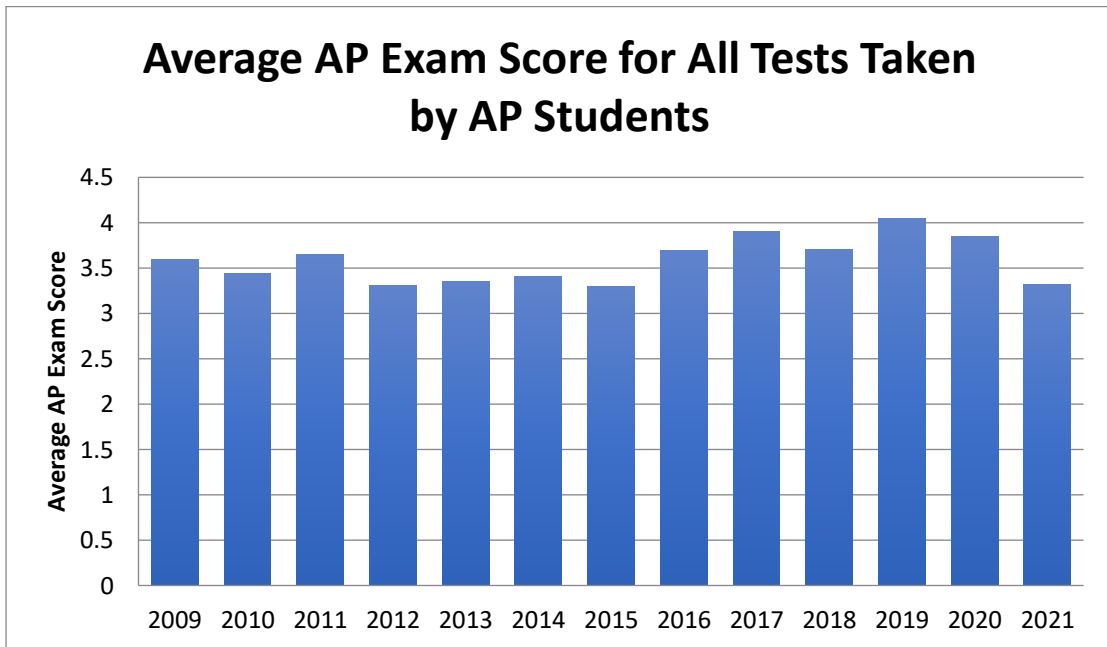
School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	52	77	91	49	22	291
Percentage of total exams	17.87	26.46	31.27	16.83	7.56	100

Out of 291 exams administered from which students took classes from an ASFG teacher, the resulting pass rate was of 75.60% (220 exams passed out of 291 exams administered). This represents a decrease of 14.40% compared to last year's pass rate of 90.00%

Also, worthy of note, 17.87% of the exams got a 5, 26.46% got a 4, and 31.27% got a 3. Meaning that 75.60% of the exams taken by ASFG students passed with a score of 3 or higher. Compared to last year's 90.00%, the number of exams passed went down by 14.40%.



The average AP exam score for all tests taken by AP students for which they received instruction from an ASFG teacher went down from a 3.85 in 2020 to a 3.32 in 2021.



C. School Totals by Score and Course

The table below shows the total of AP exams taken by ASFG students and their scores by course, along with the course passing rate. Two columns were added to this chart to make the comparison between ASFG's passing rate with that of Mexico and the world. The last three columns include the mean scores for ASFG, Mexico, and Global. This table only includes scores from students that were taught by an ASFG teacher.

Course Name	5	4	3	2	1	Total exams passed	Passing rate per course	Passing rate in Mexico	Passing rate Global	Mean Score ASFG	Mean Score Mexico	Mean Score Global
2D Art and Design		2	5			7/7	100.0%	100%	87.1%	3.29	3.58	3.42
3D Art and Design		1	2			3/3	100.0%	100%	71.4%	3.33	3.25	3.09
Biology	1	1	8	13	2	10/25	40.0%	40.2%	59.2%	2.44	2.45	2.83
Calculus AB	5			4	1	5/10	50.0%	50.0%	51.0%	3.40	2.85	2.77
Chemistry	4	3				7/7	100.0%	38.5%	51.3%	4.57	2.45	2.66
Comparative Government and Politics	1	4	9	2	1	14/17	82.4%	75%	71.8%	3.12	2.94	3.16
Computer Science Principles	3	3	10	3	3	16/22	72.7%	81.3%	66.5%	3.00	3.39	2.99
Drawing		1	2	1		4/5	75.0%	75%	86.2%	3.00	3.00	3.51
English Language and Composition	6	7	3	1		16/17	94.1%	57.1%	57.7%	4.06	2.93	2.86
English Literature and Composition		1	2	1		3/4	75.0%	36.3%	43.9%	3.00	2.31	2.47
Environmental Science		2	2	6	3	4/13	30.8%	25.8%	50.3%	2.23	2.13	2.67
Human Geography	7	11	12	3	1	30/34	88.2%	85.7%	52.5%	3.59	3.62	2.69
Macroeconomics	2	4		3	4	6/13	46.2%	60.7%	51.3%	2.77	3.14	2.74
Microeconomics	1	3	1	4	4	5/13	38.5%	59.3%	59.1%	2.46	2.99	2.96
Physics 1	5	4	4	1	2	13/16	81.3%	34.8%	42.1%	3.56	2.28	2.41
Research		2	9			11/11	100.0%	93.2%	81.5%	3.18	3.66	3.30
Seminar	2	2	6			10/10	100.0%	98.9%	85%	3.60	3.63	3.22
Spanish Language and Culture	3		2			5/5	100.0%	100.0%	80.1%	4.20	4.74	3.41
Spanish Literature and Culture	8	13		1		21/22	95.5%	97.9%	64.9%	4.27	4.20	2.92
United States History	2	5	4	3		11/14	78.6%	55.7%	47.2%	3.43	2.68	2.52
World History: Modern	2	8	10	3	1	20/24	83.3%	73.9%	52.1%	3.29	3.30	2.71
Totals 2021	52	77	91	49	22	220/291	75.6%	68%	62.48%	3.32	3.12	2.92

As can be observed from the table above, this year, there were six courses that had a 100% passing rate: 2D Art and Design, 3D Art and Design, Chemistry, Research, Seminar, and Spanish Literature and Culture.

Worthy of note are the following courses that have a percent passing rate above that of Mexico and Globally: Chemistry, Comparative Government and Politics, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Physics 1, United States History, and Modern World History.

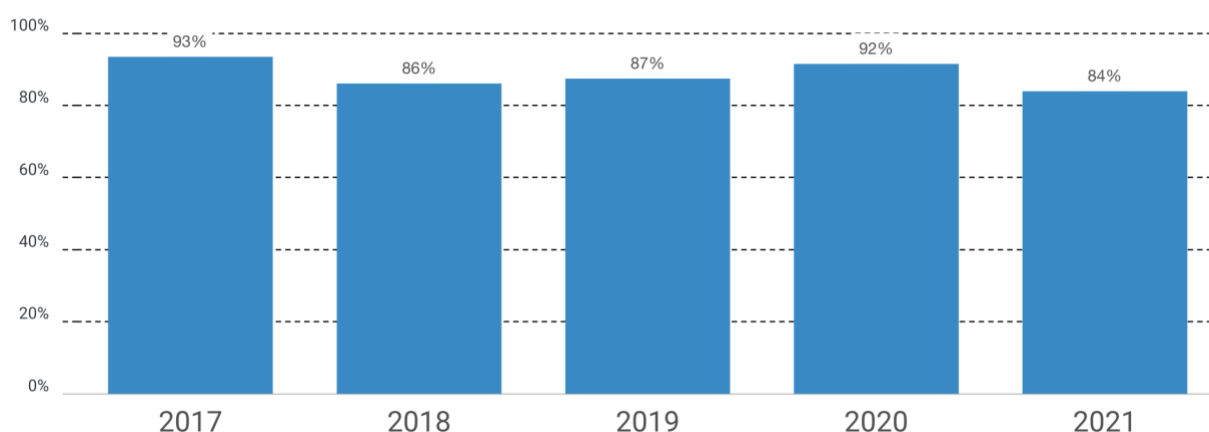
Courses that have a mean score higher than that of Mexico and Globally are 3D Art and Design, Calculus AB, Chemistry, English Language and

Composition, English Literature and Composition, Physics 1, Spanish Literature and Culture, and United States History.

Overall, it can be observed that the passing rate and the mean score at ASFG is higher than that of Mexico and Globally.

The following charts shows the College Board’s five-year summary report for ASFG. These include all students, meaning the ones that took an AP exam and studied by themselves, as well as the students that took a course with an ASFG AP Teacher. It can be observed that the percentage of total AP students with a score of 3+ decreased from 92.0% last year, to 84% this year. Nonetheless the number of students taking an AP exam increased by 21, the total number of exams increased by 38, and the number of students with a score of 3+ increased by 6.

 % OF TOTAL AP STUDENTS WITH SCORES 3+



 SCHOOL SUMMARY

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total AP Students	107	86	159	153	174
Number of Exams	228	164	316	278	316
AP Students with Scores 3+	100	74	139	140	146
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	93.46	86.05	87.42	91.50	83.91

D. AP Scholar Awards 2021

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college level achievement through AP courses and exams. This year there were a total of 56 scholars recognized with an average score of 3.70. Compared to last year, the number of scholars increased from 50 to 56 and the average score decreased to 3.70.

The table below shows the number of AP Scholar Awards and average score since 2016.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
AP Scholar Awards	54	45	38	67	50	56
Average score	3.78	3.98	3.29	4.08	4.08	3.70

1. AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher in three or more AP exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	1	3	6	10	3.36
2014	0	7	5	12	3.44
2015	0	11	4	15	3.45
2016	0	7	11	18	3.28
2017	1	7	6	14	3.70
2018	1	9	3	13	3.73
2019	2	7	7	16	3.96
2020	1	6	8	15	3.66
2021				26	3.31

The number of students receiving this recognition increased by eleven and the score average decreased from a 3.66 last year to a 3.31.

2. AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and score of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	0	4	1	5	3.80
2014	0	3	5	8	3.59
2015	0	2	4	6	3.97
2016	0	8	7	15	3.78
2017	0	6	1	7	3.77
2018	0	7	4	11	3.80
2019	0	6	5	11	3.85
2020	0	10	2	12	3.68
2021				9	3.72

The total number of students receiving the AP Scholar Award with Honor decreased by three, while the score average increased from a 3.68 to a 3.72.

3. AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	0	3	5	8	4.58
2014	0	6	6	12	4.08
2015	0	9	6	15	4.21
2016	0	5	16	21	4.04
2017	0	5	18	23	4.09
2018	0	6	8	14	4.27
2019	0	6	19	25	4.25
2020	0	5	18	23	4.26
2021				21	4.14

During 2021 the total number of students receiving the AP Scholar with Distinction Award decreased from 23 to 21 students with an average of 4.14.

4. AP International Diploma: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams in three or more subject areas.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2015	0	2	4	6	4.40
2016	0	2	3	5	3.79
2017	0	2	3	5	3.93
2018	0	2	3	5	3.89

2019	0	1	6	7	4.19
2020	0	2	5	7	4.36
2021				3	4.10

As can be observed from the table, the number of students that have been granted this award decreased by four students and the average score also decreased from a 4.36 to a 4.10.

- AP Capstone Diploma: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2017	0	0	8	8	4.23
2018	0	0	1	1	3.22
2019	0	0	7	7	4.06
2020	0	1	8	9	4.17
2021				5	3.60

As can be observed 5 students received the AP Capstone Diploma this year. Compared to last year the number of students receiving this award decreased by four and the average score also decreased from 4.17 to 3.60.

- AP Seminar and Research Certificate: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2017	0	0	2	2	3.11
2018	0	0	1	1	3.29
2019	0	0	1	1	4.00
2020	0	0	4	4	3.53
2021				6	2.97

As can be observed six students received this award with an average score of 2.97. This score of 2.97 includes all the scores the students got for all the AP exams they have taken.

E. Magic Number

Due to the fact that for the last three years, ninth graders have been involved in the AP program; two magic numbers will be analyzed.

The first one, to continue with the statistics since the creation of the magic number, will consider students grades 10-12. The second one will involve students grades 9-12.

a) Exams passed to number of high school students grades 10-12

The magic number refers to the total number of AP exams passed each year as compared to a fixed, enrollment-adjusted potential of 200 students in grades 10th through 12th. This measure accounts for variations in high school enrollment. In addition, it is in accordance with the high school's philosophy of increasing participation while maintaining a rigorous classroom environment. This is because it is possible to improve both pass rates and mean scores solely by increasing the selectivity of the application process.

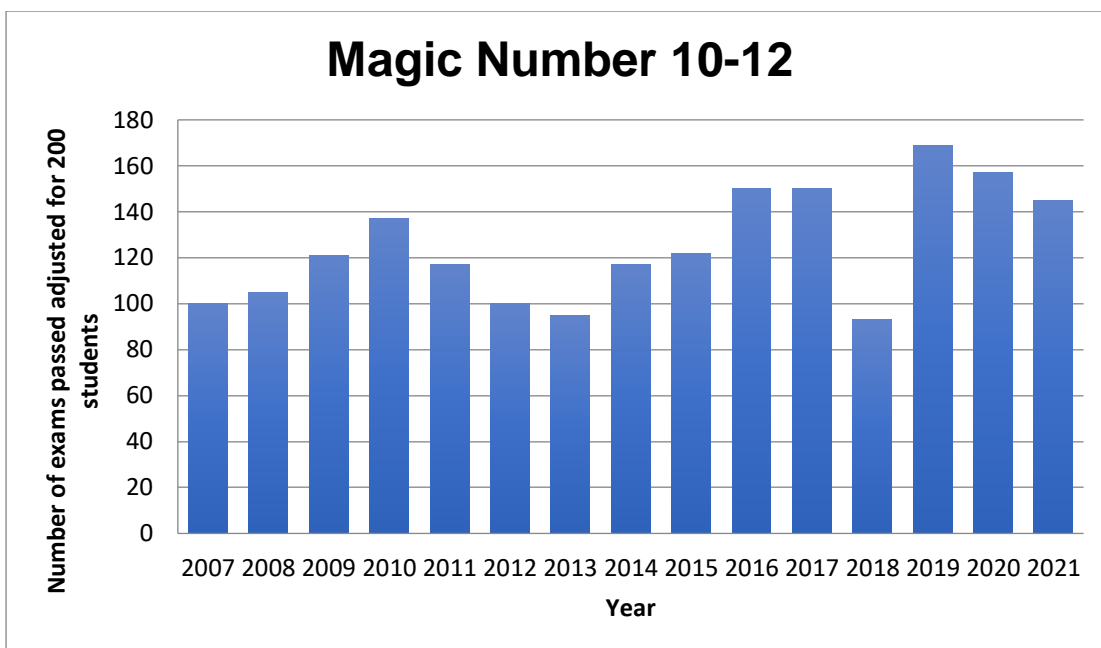
This year's magic number is 145 exams passed per student body of 200, this represents a decrease of 12 exams compared to last year's magic number of 157.

To reach the magic number of 145:

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of exams passed (instruction by ASFG teacher)}}{\text{Total number of high school students grades 10-12}} = \frac{x}{200}$$

$$\frac{189}{260} = \frac{x}{200}$$

x= 145 exams passed per a student body of 200 grades 10-12



It can be observed from the table that the magic number decreased from 157 to 145, which is 12 exams less compared to last year and 24 exams less compared to 2019.

b) Exams passed to number of high school students grades 9-12

Considering all the students that took an AP exam in 2021:

Total number of AP Exams: 316

Total number of exams, no ASFG teacher instruction: 25

Total number of exams passed, no ASFG teacher instruction: 23

Total of AP exams taken for which students received instruction from ASFG teacher: 291

Total of AP exams passed for which students received instruction from ASFG teacher: 220

Total of AP exams failed for which students received instruction from ASFG teacher: 71

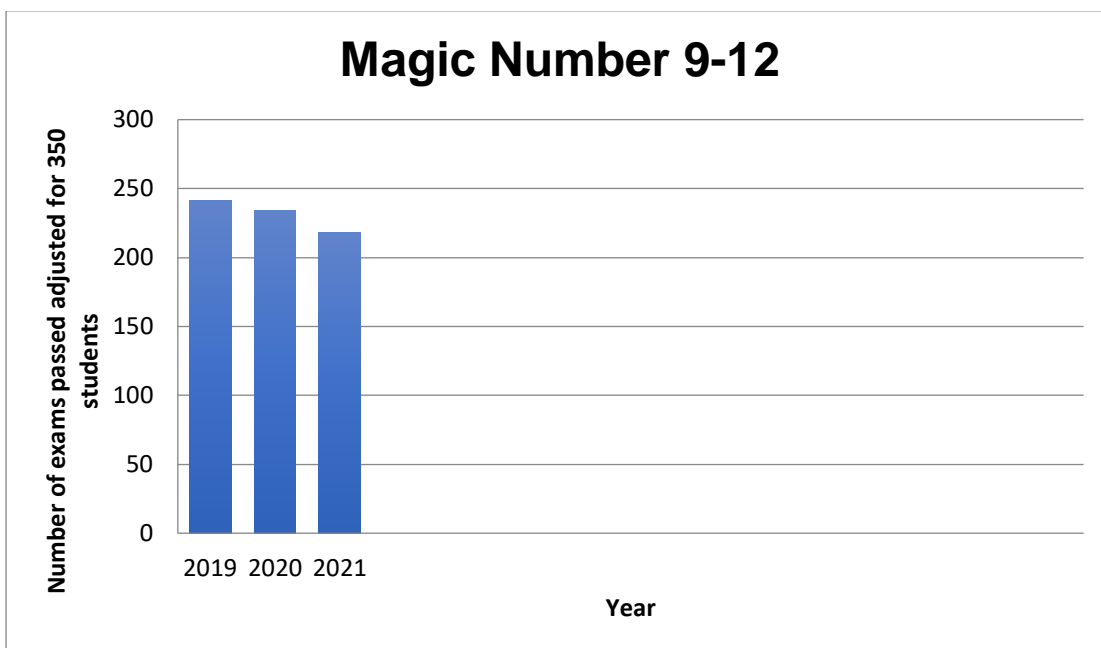
Total number of 9th grade AP exam: 36 (31 passed with a 3+)

This year's magic number, grades 9 -12 is 234 exams passed per student body of 350

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of AP exams passed (instruction by ASFG teacher)}}{\text{Total number of students enrolled in grades 9th through 12th}} = \frac{x}{350}$$

$$\frac{220}{353} = \frac{x}{350} \quad x=218$$

This means that "for every 350 enrolled students in grades 9th-12th we have 218 passing AP exams (3+). Sixteen less than last year of 234.



This change is significant, but we must consider the pandemic situation. Nonetheless most of our students proved that no matter the situation they are very well prepared and that the learning goal was accomplished.

Highlights

Year 2020-2021

- In 2020-2021, 175 students took at least one AP exam, up from 150 students the year prior. This represents the involvement of 49.57% of all grades 9-12 students in the AP program (total of 353 students in HS), which represents an increase compared to last year's student involvement of 44.51%
- In total, students took 316 AP exams, up by 45 from 271 exams taken last year.
- 291 exams were taken after students completed the corresponding AP courses offered at ASFG. This number is up from 250 exams taken last year.
- The average number of exams taken by each ASFG AP student was 1.8, same as the year prior.
- Number of courses offered went up from 20 to 21. AP Chemistry was offered this year.

- 75.60% of the exams taken by ASFG students were passed with a score of 3 or higher (went down from last year's 90.00%).
- Six AP courses had 100% passing rate, seven had a percent passing rate higher than that of Mexico and Globally, and nine had a higher score average than that of Mexico and Globally.
- The average AP exam score for all tests taken went down from a 3.85 in 2019 to a 3.32 in 2021. (Decrease two consecutive years).
- The Magic Number, grades 10-12, changed from 157, the previous year, to 145 exams passed out of a constant population of 200 students. A decrease of 12 exams. (Decrease two consecutive years).
- The Magic Number grades 9-12 changed from 234 the previous year, to 218 exams passed out of a constant population of 350 students. A decrease of 16 exams. (Decrease two consecutive years)
- There were 56 scholars that were recognized by the AP program, receiving AP Scholar Awards, 6 more students compared to last year. Their average score went down from 4.08 to 3.70.
- Teachers keep on encouraging students to challenge themselves by taking AP Courses. This is reflected in that despite the pandemic more students enrolled this year in the AP program than ever in the history of the AP program at ASFG.
- The AP Five-Year School Score Summary, comparing our student's performance with other students in Mexico and globally was not part of the AP statistic results this year. Instead the AP College Board gave a comparison of the school's performance during the last five years. The percentage of total AP students with a score of 3+ increased from 91.5% last year, to 83.91% this year.
- The passing rate and the mean score at ASFG are higher than that of Mexico and Globally.

ASFG	Mexico	Globally	ASFG	Mexico	Globally
75.6%	68%	62.48%	3.32	3.12	2.92

- Relevant topics to reflect:
 - a. AP workshops on a rotating basis for veteran teachers.
 - b. Increase pass rates.
 - c. Congruency between AP scores and course grades.
 - d. New system for enrolling students for AP Exams.
 - e. The College Board created MyAP which is a platform with resources and tools for teachers and students. Overall teachers and students liked this platform and found it useful.
 - f. The pandemic played an important role this year, nonetheless this did not discourage teachers and students to perform at their best.

Conclusion

Once again, it was an excellent year for AP exams despite of the pandemic. The school year was tough for teachers and students, nonetheless the performance of each one who participated is to be praised. The students had the opportunity to take the exams administered by the College Board either online and/or on paper. Never in the history of ASFG the school had had so many students taking AP exam (50% of the school's population).

Even though the Magic Number, grades 10-12, and the Magic number, grades 9-12 decreased we can be proud of the online performance of teachers and students. Many challenges were met but at the end they were all overcome with the support of the administration, the school's psychology department, the parents, and the teacher's and student's willingness to overcome the teaching/learning struggles that the pandemic brought to our community.

There were 56 scholars that were recognized by the AP program, receiving AP Scholar Awards. The percent passing rates and the mean average scores overall are well above those in Mexico and globally.

There is still room for growth in three different ways: a) for courses that have already grown in the number of students, passing rates must

increase; b) in courses that have a small number of students we need to invite more students to be challenged but maintaining the same rigor and high standards of the courses; and c) seniors need to be encouraged to perform better in the AP courses they are taking. In other words, we should continue to focus on participation and performance.

The Academic Stress Management Policy is still in place, requiring any student that wishes to partake in more than two Honors or AP courses to engage in a review process in which teacher input is gathered by counselor, Serena Millstone, to provide a holistic reflection on each student's academic abilities, preferences, and overall well-being. Academic and social/emotional stress was a big issue this school year due to the pandemic. We are certain that many of our students could have perform better in other circumstances.

In conclusion, all AP teachers along with the students work hard to maintain the high expectations of an AP course, to keep up with the standards and academic goals required by the College Board and The American School Foundation of Guadalajara.

Dr. Ma. Leticia Garcia Rosas
AP and Honors Head