**For Immediate Release: [Insert Date]**

**West Shore Junior/Senior High School Celebrates Its AP Capstone Diploma Recipients**

*Over 2,200 schools participated in the AP Capstone Diploma program, a project-based learning experience valued by colleges and universities across the U.S. and around the world.*

**Melbourne, FL─** At West Shore Junior/Senior High School, 53 students have earned the AP Capstone Diploma.™ A total of 4 have earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™ during the 2021-22 school year. The AP Capstone Diploma program helps students develop the critical thinking, research, collaboration, and presentation skills that are critical for academic success.

“We proudly recognize the achievements of students who participated in the AP Capstone Diploma program,” said Rick Fleming. “Our AP Capstone™ students and teachers showed extraordinary commitment while facing historic challenges. This is a meaningful college readiness program that will serve our students well after high school.”

To receive the AP Capstone Diploma, students must earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and on four additional AP Exams. To receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate, students must earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research. Students are increasingly participating in the AP Capstone program. Over 2,200 schools participated in the AP Capstone program worldwide during the 2021-22 school year. Approximately 14,100 students earned the AP Capstone Diploma, and 9,200 earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

Unlike traditional AP® subject exams with a single end-of-year assessment, AP Seminar and AP Research assessments are project based and evaluate skills mastery through group projects, presentations, and individual essays completed throughout the year. Instead of focusing on one specific academic discipline, AP Seminar and AP Research are interdisciplinary: students are empowered to create research projects based on topics of personal interest. Students are assessed on the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills needed to complete their projects. At West Shore, students focused their research on a range of topics, including computer programming using artificial neural networks, engineering consumer products to meet new environmental sustainability models, content analysis of film as social indicators, and a variety of other issues in both the natural and sociological sciences.

“I’m thrilled to congratulate these motivated students, who worked hard to earn the AP Capstone Diploma and AP Seminar and Research Certificate,” said Trevor Packer, head of the Advanced Placement® Program. “These students have enhanced the foundation for their future academic and professional careers by honing their ability to manage long-term projects, collaborate with teams, and deliver effective presentations on topics they’re passionate about.”

Of the students who participated in the AP Capstone Diploma program at West Shore:

* 53 students were awarded the AP Capstone Diploma by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and on 4 additional AP Exams.
* 4 students were awarded the AP Seminar and Research Certificate by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.
* The 57 students were graduating seniors in the class of 2022. Members of this graduating class are attending schools within the state of Florida such as University of Florida, Florida State University, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, Florida Institute of Technology and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, with many students being accepted into honors programs when available. Outside of the state of Florida students are attending schools such as Georgia Tech, Auburn University, Roger Williams University (Providence, RI), (Insert 2-3 more here).

The College Board Advanced Placement Program gives students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school. A 3 or higher on an AP Exam has multiple benefits for students, including earning college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on AP Exams, saving them time and money. Research shows AP students are better prepared for and more likely to enroll and remain in college, do well in classes, and earn their degrees on time. Each exam is developed by a committee of college and university faculty and AP teachers, ensuring that AP Exams align with their high standards.

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**About West Shore Junior/Senior High School**

**West Shore Junior/Senior High School is a public high school located in Melbourne, FL. It enrolls students in grades seven to twelve and is the first school of choice in Brevard County. Of students enrolled, 100% participate in AP Courses with 96% passing at least one AP exam. The school is ranked 4th for all secondary schools in the state of Florida and 54th in the nation.**