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Mayde Creek High School Celebrates Its AP Capstone Diploma Recipients

Over 2,500 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.

Houston, Texas — At Mayde Creek High School, Katy ISD, **4** students have earned the AP Capstone Diploma™. Additionally, **2** students have earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™ during the 2023-24 school year. The AP Capstone Diploma program helps students develop critical thinking, research, collaboration, and presentation skills that are essential to academic success.

“We proudly recognize the achievements of students who participated in the AP Capstone Diploma program,” said Lizzie Hering, Mayde Creek Principal. “With the help of dedicated teachers, our AP Capstone students explored their passions through scholarly research as part of an impactful, multiyear program. This meaningful college readiness program 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 of their choice. To receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate, students must earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research. Student participation in the AP Capstone program has been steadily increasing, with Over 100,000 students in over 2,500 schools worldwide taking part during the 2023-24 academic year. Approximately 21,000 students earned the AP Capstone Diploma, and 11,100 students 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 encouraged 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.

“We have been witnessing students’ renewed passion for learning through the AP Capstone program,” shared Bianca Peart, global lead of the AP Capstone Diploma program. “Together with the guidance of talented educators, students are building essential college and career readiness skills while exploring subjects that are meaningful to them.”

“Congratulations to the thousands of students who worked so hard to earn AP Capstone Diplomas and AP Seminar and Research Certificates,” said Trevor Packer, head of the Advanced Placement® Program. “These students are creating the pathways for their future academic and professional careers by building highly sought-after skills in project management, presentation, collaboration, and research.”

Of the students who participated in the AP Capstone Diploma program at Mayde Creek HS:

- **4** were awarded the AP Capstone Diploma by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and on 4 additional AP Exams.
- **2** were awarded the AP Seminar and Research Certificate by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.
- **4** were graduating seniors in the class of 2024.

College Board's Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) gives students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school. Earning a score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam has multiple benefits for students, including earning college credit, advanced placement in college courses, or both, 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.

In partnership with the higher education community, College Board developed AP Capstone courses to help students build and master skills essential for success in college and career.

"What so distinguishes the AP Capstone program as a hallmark educational experience is its emphasis on holistic development of inquiry and articulation skills essential for success and persistence in college, the workplace, and everyday life," said Dr. Gregory Taylor, associate provost for academic affairs at Purchase College, SUNY.

About Katy Independent School District

Katy Independent School District, a leader in educational excellence, is committed to providing a robust and diverse learning experience for all students. With a strong emphasis on academic rigor and college readiness, Katy ISD actively participates in the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) program, offering a wide range of AP courses that challenge students and prepare them for higher education. The district celebrates its students' outstanding achievements, particularly those who have earned the prestigious AP Scholar distinction, recognizing their exceptional performance on multiple AP exams. Katy ISD's dedication to academic success is reflected in the accomplishments of its students, who consistently demonstrate a commitment to excellence.

