Did you know that all students are 10-20% more likely to complete college if they have taken at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course in high school? Additionally, students who have taken and passed at least one AP exam are 24-26% more likely to graduate from college than their non-AP-taking counterparts. Despite the positive impact of AP on college success, according to Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS), 640,000 low-income students and students of color are missing from challenging courses in schools across the nation.

While H-F High School has a robust program of 24 AP course offerings, preliminary findings generated by EOS show that H-F may be missing nearly 300 students who have AP potential but, for one reason or another, are not enrolling in AP courses. Thus, through the EOS Lead Higher match-grant opportunity, H-F is partnering with EOS to find and enroll formerly missing students in AP for the 2017-18 school year.

“While we are just getting started with EOS, we anticipate that this effort will not only have positive, potentially life-altering effects on the students we recruit into AP, but also on our teachers, administrators and the wider school community,” says Superintendent Dr. Von Mansfield.

EOS, a national education non-profit based in Washington, D.C., is spearheading the Lead Higher Initiative in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education and the College Board. The mission of the initiative is to expand AP enrollment numbers of historically under-represented students, defined as low-income and students of color.

EOS began its work nearly five years ago with much success. For example, from 2012-13 to 2013-14, Washington's
We are off to a great start this school year; welcome to your first issue of the 2016-17 Viking Connection newsletter. The search for our new principal is currently underway. The position has been posted nationally, and the search firm, BWP & Associates, will be conducting focus groups with community members, staff, students, parents and intergovernmental representatives in November. You are invited on Tuesday, Nov. 22, to participate in the development of the candidate profile by sharing your thoughts and expectations for the new principal. Applications will close in late December with interviews beginning in January. The interviews will include meetings with separate groups: students, staff, parents, community members and intergovernmental representatives. We expect to have a final candidate selected by early February. It is vitally important to include all stakeholders in this process — your viewpoint is an essential piece.

I am confident that through this process a principal will be selected who will meet the needs of our school community, someone who will inspire our students and staff, who will work tirelessly to ensure that all students reach beyond their potential by implementing innovative and results-driven programming, and someone who will continue to move us forward as a school of excellence.

Community members can now access H-F’s 2016 Illinois School Report Card (ISRC) online: illinoisreportcard.com. The report card provides the district’s year-to-year performance, identifies strengths and areas of opportunity for growth. The ISRC, however, is just one of the many measures we use to examine student, program and district outcomes. As a comprehensive public high school, our goal is to prepare each student to be successful at the post-secondary level. One measurement is by the ACT college-readiness standard. This is defined by having a composite ACT score of 21 or greater.

While this is one way to measure readiness, the American Association of School Administrators is utilizing a much more comprehensive analysis to determine college and career readiness, as detailed in their Redefining Ready Campaign. By examining other academic indicators, such as standardized testing benchmarks and additional factors that contribute to success, we are able to identify students who need additional support and resources, and, just as importantly, continue to challenge all students with a rigorous and enriching curriculum. Our students are so much more than a test score and at every juncture, they continue to provide us with other valuable evidence that is equally indicative of predicting post-secondary success.

We are pleased to point out that our graduation and attendance rates are 96% and 94%, respectively. While our reported college-readiness percentage is 49%, in reality we send nearly 90% of students to college each year. Most importantly, 82% are still in college 16 months later. In addition, the percentage of freshman students on track has increased 4.9 points to 90%. While our ACT scores have remained steady over the last several years, we continue to employ a balanced assessment strategy to monitor learning, growth and academic programs. To prepare our students for college, H-F offers more than 20 Advanced Placement courses, 13 International Baccalaureate courses and a series of four progressive Project Lead the Way courses. H-F was among a select group of schools selected to participate in the Lead Higher Initiative through Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS). We are identifying methods to increase participation among traditionally underrepresented students in AP classes. In addition, our Response to Intervention (RtI) program, along with many additional student support initiatives, provide our students with resources and opportunities based on their individual needs and goals. All available data will continue to be utilized to identify areas for growth in order to provide our students with the services and programming needed to maximize their potential.

Our ISRC includes H-F’s most recent PARCC and ACT scores. Recently, the Illinois State Board of Education replaced PARCC with the SAT for state testing, resulting from concerns of the reliability and validity of test results. This means that this year the state will provide the SAT to students in Grade 11 and use the results for school accountability. Our teachers and administrators have been working diligently on making this transition successful for our students through classroom adjustments, Viking Test Prep changes and communication. For details on how H-F is preparing our students to succeed on the SAT this spring, please visit www.hfhighschool.com/news. With the holidays upon us, we have so much to be thankful for as a community. I look forward to sharing future student and staff accomplishments with you in the coming months. —Superintendent Dr. Von Mansfield

Correction: In the Summer 2016 Viking Connection, the listing of 2016 scholarship recipients omitted the Homewood Historical Society Scholarship, which was awarded to Thomas Planera III, who currently attends Loyola University - Chicago. We apologize for the omission and thank the society for its scholarship opportunity.
National Merit Students

Two members of H-F’s senior class — Kathryn Donermeyer and Lillian Hamer, both residents of Homewood — have been named semifinalists in this year’s National Merit Scholarship Program. They are two of nearly 16,000 students across the U.S. to receive this honor from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), based in Evanston. The two were named semifinalists based upon test scores on the PSAT/NMSQT test, which they completed at H-F in fall 2015. They each now have an opportunity to continue in the NMSC competition for some 7,500 scholarships worth more than $33 million that will be offered in the spring. To advance to the finalist round in the scholarship competition, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements. About 90 percent of semifinalists attain this goal and about half of the finalists will receive a scholarship. Last year H-F’s two semifinalists — Margaret Colton (University of Chicago) and Heather Culbertson (Evangel University) — both attained finalist status.

Additionally, six other H-F seniors have been named 2017 National Merit Commended Students: Michael Bonthron, Nathaniel Bouchie, Emma Brown, Henry Heligas, Blessing Ibe & Thomas Simon. Although they will not continue in the 2017 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT in fall 2015.

Scholastic Bowl finishes in 3rd Place at University of Illinois Tournament

Congratulations to the H-F Scholastic Bowl team for an impressive 3rd-place finish at the University of Illinois Earlybird Tournament, held in early October in Champaign. The team was led by senior Lily Hamer, who averaged 85 toss-up points per game during the preliminary rounds and finished 2nd out of 62 players in the tournament! Along with Lily, seniors Michael Bonthron and Thomas Simon and junior Ethan Bosch helped lead the team to major victories over state powerhouse programs, including Carbondale, Sandburg and Springfield high schools. The H-F junior team — consisting of juniors Declan Cawley, Michael Colton, Luca Strohmeier and sophomore Myles Walker — finished as the top “B” team at the tournament after toppling Champaign Centennial’s “A” team. HF
Athletics

Instead of running on a soccer field on Saturday, Sept. 17, H-F’s entire varsity soccer team ran around downtown Chicago for 90 minutes — the length of a soccer match — performing random acts of kindness with players from other area high schools. Participating in the Morning of Kindness event were: Matthew Anderson, Sebastian Ascencio, Leroy Barron, Benjamin Brandt, Kyle Butler, Santiago Carpio, Phil Donahue, Ryan Dowell, Jacob Gonzalez, Ben Hoefle, Jared Hoekstra, Brendan Hurley, Jack Hurley, Brennan Kaiser, Reese Kaiser, Stephen Kirchschlager, David Meehan, Jeffrey Ordonez, Kyle O’Shea, Collin Pawlowski, Andrew Pounder, John Benjamin Wootton and Assistant Coach Gil Smit.

Fine Arts

One H-F Fine Arts alumnae and two current students had their artwork selected for the 2016-17 Illinois Art Education Association Student Art Show, which was held Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Congratulations to senior Lucy Sloan, junior Kathleen Schmidt and alumnae Shiloah Coley, who is currently attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Guidance & Counseling

• In September, the Guidance Office welcomed two representatives from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Adam McIlwaine, head of the school’s Screen Department, and Ray Tallan, cinematography lecturer, spent the day with several H-F Film Studies students and collaborated on a special project featuring the H-F Library.

• Hundreds of H-F students and parents learned about nearly 200 colleges and universities at this year’s College Night (pictured), held Monday, Oct. 17, in the H-F Fieldhouse. The event was organized by Kevin Coy and Brad Kain, college consultants, and featured institutions of all sizes and types from across the United States.

H-F Library

This year the H-F Library is offering extended after-school hours for H-F students. The library is now open until 5:45 p.m. Mondays - Fridays to better accommodate students’ needs. Librarians Jane Harper and Alicia Rodriguez have also redesigned the library’s website and have added a weekly blog. Read more at hfhighschool.org/resources/library.

Voyage to Excellence

Open House: Nov. 30

Area 8th Graders and their parents are invited to H-F’s Voyage to Excellence Open House on Wednesday, Nov. 30, from 7-8:30 p.m. Attending Voyage to Excellence is a great way to become acquainted with the curricular and extracurricular programs at H-F. Incoming families will be able to meet department chairs, teachers, coaches and sponsors as they tour the campus.

Booths from the school’s academic departments, clubs, sports and activities will be located throughout the LEED Gold-certified North Building Fieldhouse, providing information on their organizations and how to get involved. Impromptu performances by members of the Viking Marching Band, Drumline and Viking Choir — as well as appearances by H-F’s ZooBot animals and mascot, Victor Viking — keep the evening entertaining and interesting.

Approximately 300 course options are available through H-F’s nine academic departments. There are nearly 120 clubs and sports to join, as well, including Chess Club, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Operation Snowball, Viking Orchestra, Spanish Club, Visual Arts Club and the Viking Broadcast Company, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Learn more at this year’s open house on Nov. 30. For more details, contact the Activities Office at 708-335-5525.
The teachers and administrators of H-F believe the greatest service they can provide students is an education that gives them the intellectual, emotional and social skills necessary to succeed in their post-secondary life. Approximately 300 course options are available in nine departments: Applied Academics, English, Fine Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, P.E./Health/Driver Education, Special Education and World Language. The school subscribes to a “push-pull philosophy:” students are pushed to take the most rigorous courses they can handle and are pulled through with an array of academic and social-emotional support systems (see below).

H-F is a comprehensive community high school with a full array of College Prep and Honors programs. In addition, we are fortunate to also offer specialized academic programs that include:

- **H-F Gifted Academy** — designed to challenge top academic students with a mix of Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses, culminating in an IB diploma after graduation.
- **Media, Visual & Performing Arts Academy (MVP)** — a ground-breaking program where students have the opportunity to develop their talent in an art-focused field and collaborate with other student-artists in a cross-discipline capstone project.
- **Advanced Placement** — giving students the opportunity to choose from more than 20 college-level courses and the chance to earn college credit through an end-of-the-year exam, administered by the College Board.
- **Project Lead the Way** — letting students create, innovate and solve complex problems in a real-world context. Enrollment in these STEM-based, progressive classes has nearly tripled at H-F since 2010.

### 2016 Academic Snapshot

![Image](image-url)

**300+**
Course offerings
(including 30+ AP & IB)

**738**
College credits
earned - from AP/IB exams

**158**
Students honored by AP (see list at right)

**90%**
Freshmen on track

**Supporting Student Achievement at H-F**

**Faculty Support Teams**
- PLCs — Professional Learning Communities
- School Improvement Committee
- Student Support Team
- EOS Equity Team
- Literacy & Technology Coaches
- H-F CARES Committee
- Curriculum Team

**Interventions & Support Programs**
- Academic Intervention Class
- Behavior Intervention Program
- Intervention for Success Class
- Credit Recovery • Naviance
- Double-Block Math Courses
- Student Assistance Programs
- Student Mentoring Programs
- Support Groups • ESL Classes
- H-F University Workshops
- School-Wide Literacy Instruction
- Homework Recovery Period
- Peer Tutoring • Reading Classes
- RIi Classroom Interventions
- Seminar in Teaching & Learning
- Study Sessions • Tutoring
- Viking Test Prep • Writing Center
- Curriculum Framework
- Extended Library Hours
- 504s • Individualized Education Plans

**Identifying Programatic & Individual Student Needs**
- Assessment Framework
- Common Assessments
- Standardized Testing
- Mastery Manager
- Response to Intervention
- Info Dynamics
- Teacher Referrals
- Family Involvement

**Supporting Student Achievement at H-F**

- **2,800**
  Approximate number of students

- **19**
  Average class size

- **17:1**
  Student-to-teacher ratio

- **96%**
  Graduation rate

*Viking Connection*
Students of the 1st Quarter

- Michelle Bravo (Nominated by Bob St. Leger, Social Science)
- Courtney Commodore (Nominated by Sarah Whitlock, Music)
- Naem Davis (Nominated by Cassie Miller & Paula Crawford, PE/Health)
- Tyler DeMartra (Nominated by Shante Jackson, Guidance)
- Jivan Dieudonne (Nominated by Stefanie Camilli, World Language)
- Carnell Dodd (Nominated by Bill Merchantz, Career & Technical Education)
- Sandra Driscoll (Nominated by Rusty Sayler, Mathematics)
- Grace Haynes (Nominated by Jeremiah Harris, Guidance)
- David Hill (Nominated by Rick Pavinato, Science)
- DeAndre Jackson (Nominated by Alana Drude, English)
- Jaylah Jones (Nominated by Janet Marks, Family & Consumer Science)
- Micah Moore (Nominated by Mike O’Neill, Business Education)
- Emma Novak (Nominated by Jackie Wargo, Art)
- Jadyn Powell-Cork (Nominated by Reginald Brown, Reading)
- Shamiere Vance (Nominated by Roberto Suarez, Guidance)

H-F Students’ 2016 National Achievements

AP Scholars
Scores of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams

- Botuwatte Ajanaku
- Sarah Albers Fester
- Alexis Anderson
- Jamorie Arban
- Andrew Asunmo
- Jordan Aviles
- Mehki James Backig
- Grace Bingham
- Jacob Bodine
- Ethan Bosch
- Vanessa Bowers
- Kai Brady
- Declan Cawley
- Joseph Caprano
- Shilasah Coley
- Courtney Commodore
- Tyler Connors
- Erin Cook
- Nicolas Cuellar
- Margaret Daniellan
- Cheyenne Danner
- Lance Davis
- Bailey Didier
- Meagan Doneymeyer
- Mary Donkel
- Anthony Dowd
- Krysyl-Flor Dureke
- Nnaeto Emechebe
- Rachel Fitzgerald
- Claire Fortman
- Kendra Forte
- Jaden Gladden
- Jim Greear
- Nathaniel Hardy
- Morgan Harvey
- Amber Haywood
- Haley Hening
- Jaxen Helsel
- Mary Huffman
- Joseph Humphrey
- Angelina Izguerra
- Ethan Kaiser
- Anna Lane
- Laura Larocca
- Hannah Lichtenberg
- Grace Lipscomb
- Mia Luckett
- Lonzo Lynn
- Leslie Malley
- Allie Mangel
- Jacqueline Mazique
- Nydula Mbogo
- David Meehan
- Max Morales
- Anna Moran
- Chediozie Nwanu
- Emmanuela Nwumeh
- Ianna Oaks
- Michael Oqeda
- Jooyynn Osei
- Nana Osei
- Mary Paetow Fanning
- Daniela Pena
- Jordan Pennam
- Gianmarco Petrelli
- Courtney Pugh
- Demetrio Reed
- Ann Reilly
- Jeremy Rhodes
- Samantha Roberson
- Ethan Runburg
- Alexys Sanders
- Kelda Sandstrom
- Taylor Saucier
- Marie Sherlock
- Mandy Sigala
- Kimani Smit

AP Scholars with Honors
Average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, plus scores of 3 or higher on 4 or more exams

- Emma Anderson
- Sopuluchukwu Anidobu
- Rashelle Brownfield
- Michael Colton
- Kathryn Donemeyer
- William Doran
- Shannon Dunne
- Daniel Estelle
- Michael Gavin
- Brittany Henry
- Joshua Izenbart
- Enique Johnson
- Shannon Jordan
- Brianna Meyer
- Madeline Moxley
- Jackson Mulligan
- Thomas Pianera
- Shelly Ray
- Myah Rhodes
- Joshua Thomas
- Kalia Tingue
- Sarah Weiner
- John Woottom

AP Scholars with Distinction
Average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken, plus scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more exams

- Melinda Berman
- Michael Bonthron
- Nathaniel Bouchie
- Zoe Branch
- Juliana Castagna
- Heather Culbertson
- Samuel Cutrara
- Tristan Donchoe
- Joseph Eagle
- Payton Gallery
- Joseph Greenebaum
- Eric Hagerman
- Lillian Harmer
- Henry Heligas
- Blessing Ibe
- Carter Levinson
- Luke Logan
- Michelle Maass

Linda Nwumeh
Kayla Reiser
Jacob Rothchild
Cobi Sabo
Johnathan Schmidt
Matthew Schofield
Julia Schwieterman
Thomas Simon
Darius Staton
Lucy Sloan
Keani Staton
Hayley Sutherland
Eliza Sykes
Makia Toeguem
Johnathan Truex
Kira Van Voorhees
Robert Venegas

National AP Scholars
Average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, plus scores of 4 or higher on 8 or more exams

Mae Carroll
Michael Gislason
Nora Grasse
Rosemary Joyce
Lauren Torian

IB Diploma Recipients

Jessica Barry
Ryan Bergal
Margaret Colton
Heather Culbertson
Lila Grant
Julia Schwieterman
Nick Thompson
Lauren Torian
Kira Van Voorhees
Isabel Weber
Shaleakht Wilson

Earned Qualifying Scores (4+) in at least 3 IB Courses

Kwame Amuhi
Jessica Barry
Ryan Bergal
Juliana Castagna
Bernie Coderm
Margaret Colton
Heather Culbertson
Preston Genett
Lila Grant
Michael Havighorst
Hannah Levy
Jared Moore
Leah Moss
Chris Norling
Lakeem Reed
Julia Schwieterman
Nick Thompson
Lauren Torian
Kira Van Voorhees
Isabel Weber
Shaleakht Wilson

240 Scholarships earned by the Class of 2016

National Blue Ribbon Awards for Excellence

Fall 2016
It’s a Small World (when you’re a Viking!)

In the alumni office, I hear many interesting (some not to be repeated!) anecdotes from our alumni. The most interesting of these are stories of H-F grads running into other Vikings in the most unusual places and under the most unique circumstances. One such “meet up” took place earlier this year to Carl Jacobson, ’72.

“So here I am in Rome today, across the street from the Colosseum, and the guy at the next table tells me I look familiar … He looked familiar, too … It was Tom Boysen from the H-F Class of 1972, and we hadn’t seen each other since graduation! Tom’s wife asked us what the chances of this meeting were, to which I replied (of course), ‘Well, I’d say about 100%!‘” — Carl Jacobson (Photo taken at the Colosseum in Rome)

If you have an interesting story about meeting a fellow classmate or other Viking alum, let us hear about it. Even better, take a photo to share and to document it! Send your stories and photos to Ann Cherry, director of Alumni Relations & Development, at 708-335-5530, acherry@hf233.org.

Class of 1966

Under the guidance of David Campbell and his tireless reunion planning committee, the Class of 1966 offered a weekend of well-planned and orchestrated events during Homecoming. The planning for this reunion began more than two years ago as the committee brainstormed ideas and suggestions. What resulted was nothing less than spectacular. Classmates came from near and far for a chance to reconnect, and they had plenty of opportunity to do just that! Events ranged from a golf outing, pizza at Aurelio’s, stops at local watering holes, a Chicago River boat tour, and gracious alumni Gil & Carolyn Parsons, Joel & Donna Stender and Bob Buford opening up their homes to host classmate gatherings over the course of the weekend.

Almost 60 alumni and family members met at H-F for a tour on the Saturday morning of their formal event. They were delighted by the growth of the school and how much had changed in the last 50 years, but how the core building blocks, which had been developed by the founders and early leaders of the school, remained the same. One of the highlights was a tour through the H-F auto shop and a stop in the choir room, which brought back so many memories for Viking Choir alumni.

Special thanks and kudos to the following reunion committee members: Bill Bonnell, Bill Sheehan, Bob Buford, Cari Campbell, Charles Hansen, Cori Seidelmann Ward, David Clegg, Gil Parsons, Janice Holch Hunady, Joel Stender, Karen Weinberg Grandinetti, Kathryn Burton, Kim Williams, Linnea Paulsen Suthers, Mary Sue Wallace, Mike Dennis, Mike Grandinetti, Mike Musich, Pam Madsen Hansen, Phyllis Irwin Heinrich, Shirley Soderborg Lowes, Susan Semerau Young, Tom Guilfoyle, Tom Horn & Tom Panichi.

Class of 1986

The Class of 1986 held a memorable reunion in September. Led by the creative reunion planning committee of Robin Rangel McElligott and Mark Benzaquen, events included a pub crawl on Friday evening followed by the formal Saturday evening event at Idlewild Country Club. Enjoying each other’s company during the Friday evening festivities are (l-r): Leanne Stitt Champion, Kenny Bank, Deanne Friedman, Joan Pasquinelli VanBeest, Tracy Wesley Kocourek, Laura Pecora Schreiber, Andy Stone, Mark Benzaquen and Eric Havens.
Special Alumni Visits

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Super Bowl, the NFL distributed golden footballs to high schools that had produced a Super Bowl player or participant. H-F was honored to receive a football this summer in recognition of Wes Hamilton, ’71. Wes played 11 seasons for the Minnesota Vikings, playing in Super Bowl XI.

The Super Bowl High School Honor Roll program instituted by the NFL this year recognizes “schools that contributed to Super Bowl history.” Nearly 3,000 players and coaches have taken part in a Super Bowl game and more than 2,000 high schools across the country received their own football. At the request of the NFL, each Super Bowl player was requested to present the ball in person. Wes was able to do that this June after traveling from his home in Minnesota, along with his wife, Linda (Vik) Hamilton, ’71. He presented the ball to Superintendent Dr. Von Mansfield in front of an audience of classmates, as well as former H-F Head football Coach Bob Lombardi.

After H-F, Wes attended the University of Tulsa, where he was a stand-out offensive lineman. His son, Ben, followed in his footsteps and played almost a decade for the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks. Wes stayed in Minnesota after his playing days and runs an Allegra Marketing, Print and Mail franchise. This very special keepsake will find a permanent home in the H-F display case in the North Building.

On Oct. 20, H-F welcomed Peter Layton, ’78, as a guest alumni speaker to Science students. Peter, who made his career on the floor of the Chicago Board Options Exchange first with Merrill Lynch then Hull Trading, spoke to students about his second career as an entrepreneur focused on environmental issues. Tiring of the endless travel involved with his financial job, Layton decided to de-stress by purchasing an old farm in Milton, Wis., and reverting it back to its native habitat. Eventually, he owned properties totaling 400 acres that have been transformed back into native prairie land. After realizing that there was a growing demand for environmental restoration, he formed Tallgrass Restoration.

Tallgrass provides ecological restoration services, including natural areas stewardship, erosion control, native plant installation, invasive species control, prescribed burns, rain garden design and more. One of the most satisfying results of the restoration work is in seeing the increased bird populations and other native animals in areas that have been reverted to their original habitat. Peter is a board member and former chairman of the Chicago Wilderness Trust. He also sits on the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. A stand-out member (and later coach) of the H-F Debate team, Peter then attended the University of Chicago for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in finance. HF
Columbia School District expanded its AP enrollment by 65%, while still keeping its AP exam pass rates statistically comparable. The following year, EOS partnered with schools in several more states to enroll more than 9,000 under-represented students in AP courses.

Today, EOS is operating in 23 states, including Illinois, which joined EOS in 2015. During the 2015-16 school year, EOS partnered with seven northern Illinois districts, which included Barrington, Fenton, Glenbard, Lake Park, Leyden, Sterling and Woodstock. This year, H-F is one of 15 additional Illinois school districts to be awarded an EOS Lead Higher grant. The other districts include Champaign, Crete-Monee, Indian Prairie, Oak Park-River Forest and Township High School District 214. Within this year’s 15 Illinois Lead Higher grant school districts, EOS estimates nearly 6,000 students with AP potential are missing from AP classes. EOS further estimates that approximately half of those missing students are African-American.

Data provided to H-F by EOS shows that H-F exceeds the national average in regards to 11th and 12th Grade low-income students and students of color participating in AP: While the national average is only 15%, H-F’s average is 25%. Additionally, H-F’s AP exam pass rate of 74% exceeds the national average of 57% and Illinois’ average of 50%. Despite these strong numbers, however, H-F is dedicated to creating a more equitable AP environment by working with EOS to generate and analyze data to find and recruit more under-represented students into H-F’s AP courses.

The data used for identifying students comes from four sources: student demographic and academic information; a student survey; and two staff surveys. In early September, all H-F freshmen through seniors took the student survey to find out how they viewed themselves as students, their academic and career interests, their sense of belonging, H-F’s AP climate, and their own AP track record and interest in AP. At the same time, teachers, administrators and other staff members took the first staff survey to gather their ideas and feedback about H-F’s AP culture, including why students may not be participating, opportunities for enhancing supports for both students and teachers, finding out who is interested in teaching AP, and who is interested in assisting with student outreach and recruitment. Later in the fall, teachers will take a second survey through which they will recommend students for enrollment in at least one AP course next year.

Data from the student and staff surveys will be used to create student insight cards, which will feature academic data along with the student’s interests, challenges and AP recruitment potential. Prior to the end of 1st semester, H-F will receive these cards for its current sophomores and juniors. The cards will be used to recruit and enroll students in AP courses for the 2017-18 school year. During the second semester, H-F will receive freshmen insight cards to help in the planning of the following year’s outreach efforts.

EOS Partnership Director Marquise Roberson is working directly with H-F administrators, teachers and counselors to help plan H-F’s 1st semester outreach and recruitment efforts. Roberson will continue to assist with sustainability planning during 2nd semester in order to ensure that all H-F students with AP potential are identified and given the opportunity to fully participate in H-F’s comprehensive AP program next year and throughout the years to come. — Dr. Nancy Spaniak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development.

A sample student insight card — H-F will receive these in December.
On the dawn of an early spring day in 1944, at age 10, Eva Kor and her family were stripped from their homes and shoved into cattle cars to make the four-day journey to Auschwitz with 100 other people. There wasn’t even enough room to sit down.

Kor and her twin sister, Miriam, were taken away from the rest of their family and placed with other sets of twins to be tested by Nazi doctors.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, she was treated as a human guinea pig. She received experimental injections and was stripped naked, having each body part weighed daily. Through all of the tests and torture, Kor said she spoke a silent pledge that she would do anything and everything to survive.

One of the injections caused Eva to get a high fever, but even when the doctor said she had two weeks to live, she continued to speak her silent pledge and willed herself to survive in order to prove the doctors wrong.

To make it through the months of torture at Auschwitz, Kor depended on strength that many other 10-year-olds do not possess. This strength was something that she had from an even younger age, coming from a family with an Orthodox Jewish father who desperately wanted a boy.

“I was born at the wrong place, the wrong time, the wrong religion, and the wrong sex. We had two older sisters, my father was a very Orthodox Jew; he desperately wanted a boy. When the midwife delivered my sister, he asked with great anticipation ‘What do we have?’ and the midwife knowing, apologetically said, ‘It’s a girl, but don’t worry there is another one coming.’ So I arrived as the greatest disappointment to my father.”

At five and a half years old, her father told her “you should’ve been a boy” and ostracized her.

“She decided to treat me like the black sheep of the family. My sister and I compared notes after the war and she said ‘oh daddy was wonderful. He would put me on his lap and tell stories of visiting Palestine.’ The only time I saw daddy’s lap was when he took off his belt to belt me because I got belted almost daily,” she said. “What that did is I learned to outsmart him and learned defiance at 4 and a half years. That is the reason I was one of the strongest in Auschwitz.”

This strength didn’t only push her to survive, it pushed her to be able to forgive everyone who ever hurt her including German dictator Adolph Hitler, Dr. Mengele and Dr. Münch, one of Mengele’s associates, who was responsible for the cruel experiments on Jews.

Kor and Munch went back to Auschwitz where, in recognition of the dead, Dr. Münch agreed to sign a death certificate outside of the ruins of the gas chamber.

“I have the power to forgive. Nobody can give or take that power away. As we stood by ruins of gas chambers, immediately I felt not like a victim or a prisoner of my tragic past when it was signed,” Eva said. “Anger is a seed for war. Forgiveness is a seed of peace. Forgiveness is the best revenge.”

This forgiveness didn’t come without backlash.

“[Thursday] night I was at the house of my hostess Gloria and there was a daughter of a Holocaust survivor and she was very angry with me. What happens with victims is that they pass that anger onto their children and their children become victims, but I can’t do anything besides be who I am. I hope someone among them will finally forgive,” Kor said. “Two or three years ago I got an email from a great great granddaughter of an Armenian genocide. She was working on her master’s degree and ran into my name and could not believe that I could forgive. Here we are the great great granddaughter and you’re still a victim. When does it end? And what happens to all the victims? There is nothing good about being a victim.”
COM M U N I T Y  CA L E N D A R

NOVEMBER
17-20 ....Operation Snowball
@ Camp Manitouqua
22 .......Principal Search Community Group
Meetings: 8-9 a.m. @ TLC; 5:30-
6:30 p.m. @ E1; 7-8 p.m. @ TLC
22 .......Early College Awareness Program
@ Mall Auditorium, 7 p.m.
23 .......Early Dismissal Day - 1:20 p.m.
23 .......Viking Choir Performance
@ St. Joseph Church, 7:30 p.m.
24-25 ....Thanksgiving Holiday - School closed
30 .......Voyage to Excellence Open House
@ Fieldhouse, 7-8:30 p.m.

DECEMBER
3 ........Holiday Instrumental Concert
Series, Part 1 @ Mall Auditorium,
2 & 4 p.m.
4 ........Holiday Instrumental Concert
Series, Part 2 @ Mall Auditorium,
2 & 4 p.m.
6 ........H-F Foundation Meeting @ South
District Conference Room, 5:30 p.m.
7 ........H-F Workshop: Dealing with Stress
@ TLC, 7 p.m.
10 .........TUBA Holiday Concert
@ Mall Auditorium, 3 p.m.
16 .........VTV Lip Sync Contest
@ Mall Auditorium, 7 p.m.
18 .........Winter Choral Concert
@ Mall Auditorium, 3 p.m.
20-22 ....Semester Final Exams
- 1:20 p.m. Student Dismissal
20 .........District 233 Board Meeting
@ South Room E1, 7:30 p.m.
23 .......Marking Day - No classes
26 .......Winter Break begins

JANUARY
10 .........Classes resume
11 .........H-F Workshop: Senioritis 101
@ South Building E1, 7 p.m.
11 .........H-F Junior High Presentation
@ Parker Jr. High, 7 p.m.
12 .........H-F Junior High Presentation
@ James Hart School, 7 p.m.
14 .........H-F Steppers Show
@ Mall Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
16 .........Dr. MLK, Jr. Day - School closed
17 .........District 233 Board Meeting
@ H-F Library, 7:30 p.m.
18 .........Pursuing the Dream Event
@ Mall Auditorium, 7 p.m.
19 .........Advanced Academics Showcase
@ South Building, 6:30 p.m.
21 .........FPAC Silent Auction
@ South Cafeteria, 6-10 p.m.
23 .........Tri-District Instrumental Concerts
@ Mall Auditorium, 7 & 7:45 p.m.
24 .........Tri-District Choral Festival
@ Mall Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
28 .........Operation Snowflake
@ South Building, 6:30 a.m.
28 .........2017 Summer School Registration
@ North Cafeteria, 8 a.m.-Noon