

AP DIVERSITY

THE DIVERSITY OF AP CLASSES AND THE STUDENTS WITHIN THEM.

By: Ana K Marquez-Caballero Staff

Over the years, our AP classes have changed. More have been added, more students have enrolled, and the racial diversity of students and teachers has also increased.

“The amount of ELL classes and student population has been a reason the average students enrolled in AP classes has shifted,” school improvement leader Stephanie Nugent said.

The average amount of students enrolled is around 262. Although this year, there is a total of 249, not counting those students that take AP classes at Central Academy and Campus. Our current number is an increase from five years ago when the enrollment was 210 students.

“[There has been] a decline of black/African American students that take AP classes, an increase in Latino/Hispanic students as well as



Students get ready to discuss a text in AP Spanish literature. Marquez Photo.

Asian and multiracial students with a decrease of white/Caucasian students,” Nugent said.

The diversity of our school has much to do with the students involved in these classes. Although, many are unaware of these classes and opportunities and hold themselves back from taking them.

“They think right away that it’s too difficult and that they cannot do it, but you don’t know what you’re capable of until do it,” Spanish teacher Fabian Ruiz-Angeles said.

Some students are unaware of the existence of AP classes.

“THEY THINK RIGHT AWAY THAT IT’S TOO DIFFICULT AND THAT THEY CANNOT DO IT, BUT YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU’RE CAPABLE OF UNTIL DO IT,” SPANISH TEACHER FABIAN RUIZ-ANGELES SAID.

“[I didn’t take AP classes] because I didn’t know anything about them,” sophomore Pablo Ariel Sanchez said.

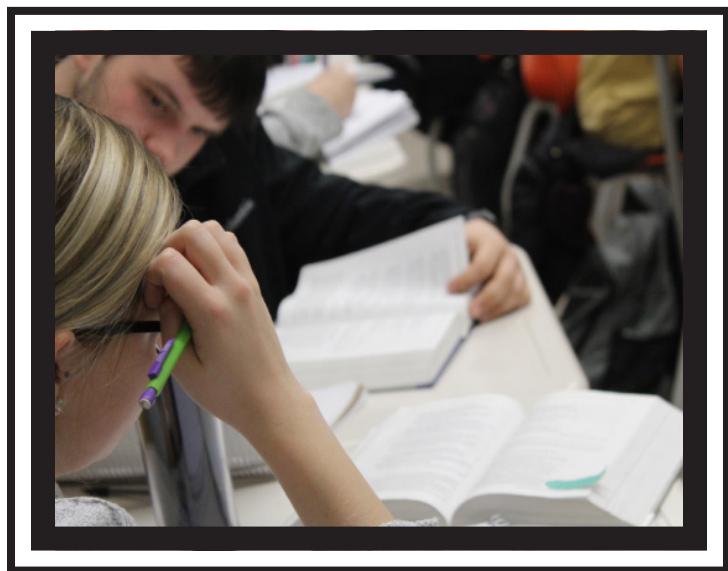
Yet many who are aware of them are pushed by parents to take them.

“[The reason I take AP classes is] mostly my parents pushing me into them.” senior Arif Custovic said.

The diversity of AP classes and the students taking them has changed, not dramatically, but enough to be noticed and to give an opportunity to those wanting more credits and higher classes, giving them a little taste of a college experience.

We all know change can be hard. Principal Kathie Danielson recognizes this, and suggests that in order to have more minority groups involved into AP classes, we need to start with those teaching the classes.

“Starting with staff, helping kids to believe that they can learn at an advanced level, and having teachers believe in them.” Danielson said.



Students analyze a text together in English teacher Nicholas Jackson’s AP Literature course. Marquez Photo.

**STUDENTS
ENROLLED
IN AP
CLASSES
THIS YEAR.**
249

**CLASSES
OFFERED
AT
HOOVER**
13

**AP
TEACHERS
WITHIN
THE
BUILDING**
9