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Pittsburgh Public Schools and National Math and Science Initiative to Host Advanced Placement Study Sessions

PITTSBURGH, November 11, 2015 – Beginning Saturday, November 14th, the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) will host Advance Placement (AP) study sessions for students from five District secondary schools. The inaugural study session will cover AP English at Pittsburgh Brashear High School from 8:30am-2:30pm.

The Saturday Study Sessions are led by expert teachers from around the United States. This gives students not only high quality instruction from their PPS teacher, but access to an outside resource providing further insight for success on the AP exam.

“During these sessions students engage in AP mock testing items, are coached on AP test taking skills and strategies, and receive diagnostic exam prep information in regards to areas of strengths and weaknesses. Teachers in-turn use the information gathered to inform their instruction and encourage students to use the information when studying. We can see the gains being made,” said Kashif Henderson, Coordinator, K-12 Gifted and Talented.

Please see below the full AP Study Session schedule:

English AP Study Sessions @ Pittsburgh Brashear: 11/14/2015, 1/9/2016, 3/12

Science AP Study Sessions @ Pittsburgh Brashear: 2/20/2016, 4/16, 4/30

Math AP Study Sessions @ Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy: 2/27/2016, 4/9, 4/23

Since Pittsburgh Brashear and Pittsburgh Science and Technology (Sci -Tech) implemented the NMSI AP Program at the start of the 2013-14 school year, the number of AP Math, Science and English exams that earned qualifying scores at these two schools increased by 150 percent (48 exams in 2013, 120 exams in 2015).

This is the third year for the NMSI partnership at Pittsburgh Brashear and Pittsburgh Sci-Tech. Three additional schools, Pittsburgh Allderdice, Pittsburgh CAPA and Pittsburgh Carrick entered into a partnership with NMSI this year.

“We know from research students who participate in AP courses do better in college. Furthermore, research has shown students who pass their AP exams have a higher rate of graduating college. Over the past three years our partnership with NMSI provided access to high quality teacher trainings and resources,” said Henderson.

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There are 327 students from the five partnership schools registered for the sessions. The District will host its own Saturday and after-school AP sessions starting second semester open to all students. In addition, the District holds an AP Summer Academy, each year, to prep students for upcoming AP courses for the following school year

NMSI is a nonprofit group that seeks to improve teaching of science, math, technology and engineering through offering training and resources for teachers, Saturday study sessions for students, and financial rewards. Support for the NMSI program in the Pittsburgh Public Schools has been provided by Heinz Endowments.

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