

Lake Hamilton High School has been a part of the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS) for the past three years. The goal of AAIMS is for students to score proficient on Advanced Placement (AP) exams for math, science, and English. Students who score a 3,4, or 5 are deemed proficient on the exam and may receive college credit for the course. AAIMS is part of the National Initiative for Math and Science (NMSI) which has partnered with Exxon Mobile to enhance science and math education. The ultimate goal of NMSI is to see more scientists, mathematicians, and engineers graduate from American universities.

Over the past three years, AAIMS has challenged teachers by setting goals for the number of students who will score 3, 4, or 5. Each year the number of passing scores increases in order to meet the goal. Lake Hamilton is the only school, out of 30 schools across the state of Arkansas, which reached its goals all three years.

Mrs. Tommie Sue Anthony, President of AAIMS says, *"We are very proud of Lake Hamilton's success. This success is due to the outstanding AP math and English programs. Those teachers are making a tangible difference in the lives of their students by giving them the tools to succeed in advanced, college level classes. This will ultimately impact their future in college and in their careers. The enrollment in these two disciplines continues to grow, and AAIMS believes that Lake Hamilton will continue to meet its goals. "*

Students and teachers have accepted the challenge and work together to meet their goals. Teachers receive specialized Professional Development that assists them in designing a curriculum that is rigorous and prepares their students to be successful on the AP exam. Students and teachers meet on selected Saturdays to increase their class time and listen to guest teachers. Each student who scores a three or better on an AP exam in math, science or English receives \$100 per qualifying score from AAIMS.

Over the past two years, two of Lake Hamilton's faculty members have been chosen as the NMSI All American Teacher of the year for their content areas in the state of Arkansas. In the 2009-2010 school year, Dawn Higgs won the award for English teacher of the year. In the 2010-2011 school year, Brian Leonard won the award for math teacher of the year.

Math teacher Brian Leonard says, *"I am truly proud to work at Lake Hamilton. Excellence is evident in our faculty's commitment to education, our staff's willingness to go above and beyond what is simply "required", our administration's desire to make us stand out from every other school, and of course, our student's ability to challenge themselves to be better. We have had tremendous success in the AAIMS grant because of all these factors, and this achievement is something that should make our entire school proud to be 'wolves'."*

Dawn Higgs says, *I am very proud of our growth in enrollment and our students' and their parents' commitment to our AP program. Having received training from experts in our respective fields, the knowledge we have gained allows us to prepare our students for the rigorous coursework they will face in college. AAIMS provides us with access to some wonderful teaching materials and teaching methods, truly the best professional development in our respective subject areas. All of the AAIMS schools have achieved some degree of success. Perhaps Lake Hamilton is the only school to*

have reached its school wide threshold for all three years because of our students' commitment to excellence. Our administrators and teachers have worked very hard to create a culture of achievement, and the students have eagerly embraced these opportunities to excel, and their parents have supported the program enthusiastically.

Lake Hamilton High School has been successful due to the hard work and commitment of the entire community to doing what is best for our students. Together, parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community members are creating a brighter future for the members of the Lake Hamilton community.