

Press release:

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Delaware Valley High School

One of America's Best High Schools (US News & World Report)

The Delaware Valley High School was just recognized as one of the national academic powerhouses by US News & World Report. Dr. Candis Finan, Superintendent of the Delaware Valley School District was very pleased and stated that “the past few years we have made a strong effort to raise the academic expectations and our students have responded.” This is the first year the Delaware Valley High School was included on the US News & World Report’s list of Americas Best High Schools.

In the past year, the DVHS has been recognized nationally by Newsweek, the Washington Post and The College Board for outstanding academics but the criteria for this award includes a much wider population. The criteria for these rankings are a three step process to determine the nation’s best high schools. Researchers first looked at all of the student results on the state (PSSA) reading and math proficiency tests. They then factored in economically disadvantaged students (who tend to score lower) to identify schools that were performing better than expected. Researchers then determined whether the school’s least advantaged student’s (low income, minority) performed better than average for similar students in the state. Only when the school passed the first two steps did they become eligible to be judged nationally on the final step--college-readiness performance—using Advanced Placement (AP) test data benchmarks for success. AP is a College Board program that offers college-level courses at high schools across the country and has become the gold standard in college readiness in country. Over 3.7 million AP exams are schedule to be administered to this year’s high school students.

Delaware Valley High School ranked 32nd out of 752 public, charter and magnet schools in Pennsylvania placing them in the top 4% of schools statewide. Only 56 (the top 7%) of high schools in Pennsylvania out of the 752 made the list at the gold or silver level that DVHS was awarded when they were advanced to the national level. Out of the 22,000 schools ranked nationwide DVHS placed in the top 6%. Jay Tucker, Chairperson of DVHS Counseling Department concluded that “this national honor is very reflective of our school philosophy to seek equity for all of our students”. “Often honors such as this one include only one segment of our population yet this national honor includes the results of all of our students” Tucker concluded.

Mr. Ron Collins, DV High School Principal believed that this prestigious honor is one that belongs to the Delaware Valley students, parents and staff who have been very committed to rigorous coursework and feels this is something our entire community should celebrate.

More detailed information about the US News & World Report rankings can be found on their website.