



# AP Chalkboard

An AP Coordinator newsletter  
November 2005

## Parent Forum

Project SOS: Supporting Optimal Scholarship, an Advanced Placement Initiative in five Austin Independent School District high schools and seven feeder middle schools, will sponsor a parent forum on Saturday, November 12, 2005 at Reagan High School in the Performing Arts Theater from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Dr. Eric Anthony Joseph, currently a professor at Langston University will be the guest speaker at the forum. Dr. Joseph specializes in several multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary fields K-12.

Dr. Joseph will address the issues of having your child enrolled in Advanced Placement courses and helping them to be successful with these rigorous and challenging courses. Parents of students at Akins, Johnston, Lanier, Reagan and Travis High Schools as well as Burnet, Dobie, Fulmore, Martin, Mendez, Paredes and Webb Middle Schools are encouraged to attend. The AISD community is invited as well.

For more information you may contact Barbara Mayo, Project SOS Director, Department of Advance Academic Services, at 414-0141.

## Spotlight on Study Groups

Individuals learn best when they are actively engaged in their learning. Research supports students working in small study groups because learning increases as well as the length of retention.

Pointers for study groups:

- Keep the study group at a manageable size, say three to five people. These individuals should be in the same course and have a schedule that allows them to meet regularly.
- One of the group members should Chair each study group session to make sure that the group remains focused and that an agenda for each meeting is created and followed. Some study groups may wish to rotate the role of Chair.
- At the end of each session write the agenda for the next meeting. Each study group member should be responsible for preparing and presenting specific material. Challenge group members to become experts in the areas they have the most difficulty. After all, teaching others is the surest way to truly learn anything. Group members should create practice test questions to ask each other and plan to bring any handouts that are worth sharing to reinforce the presentations.
- Spend a little time each session reflecting on how well the meeting proceeded and how members might improve their contributions to the group.

## AP Document Library

Visit College Board's AP Document Library at

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/article/0,3045,149-0-0-8020,00.html>

This web page has links to PDF files about the AP Program, Pre-AP initiatives, course-specific information, and other important information for AP professionals. Included are forms, applications, course and exam documents, research and data, and general information.

## AP's Impact on Texas Students

What impact does rigorous curriculum in general and AP in particular have on college readiness and success? A *significant* one! See for yourself in this table excerpted from *Do What Works: How Proven Practices Can Improve America's Public Schools* (2005) by Tom Luce and Lee Thompson (available at [www.communitiesjust4kids.org](http://www.communitiesjust4kids.org)).

The table illustrates the percent of Texas high school students taking AP courses that received bachelor's degrees from Texas colleges and universities within five years of graduation:

	Passed an AP Exam in High School	Took, Did Not Pass AP Exam	Did Not Take AP Exam
<b>Anglo</b> (47,647 students)	<b>57%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b> (19,868 students)	<b>47%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>African American</b> (7,813 students)	<b>42%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Low-Income</b> (22,028 students)	<b>40%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total</b> (78,079 students)	<b>57%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>17%</b>

Source: National Center for Educational Accountability

## 2006 Equity Colloquium

The 2006 National Equity Colloquium will take place the first week of March 2006 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott in Atlanta, Georgia. The Equity Colloquium brings together educators from across the country to participate in a conference-style discussion of issues of access and equity in the AP Program. The meeting aims to uncover realistic strategies to address issues such as the recruitment and retention of AP teachers of color in the AP professional community and the recruitment of low-income students and students of color in the AP program. If you are interested in presenting or attending please contact [apequity@collegeboard.org](mailto:apequity@collegeboard.org)

## James Joyce Student Essay Contest

The American Friends of James Joyce and The Modern Word have announced details of their third Secondary School Essay Contest. Students choose between two topics, then write a 500 to 1,000 word essay. First prize is a \$1,500 scholarship and a set of James Joyce's major works; second prize is a \$500 scholarship and a set of James Joyce's major works; third prize is a set of James Joyce's major works. The essay contest is open to students worldwide, but all entries must be in English. Students must be in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade. The submission deadline is **March 30, 2006**. To learn more, visit [TheModernWord.com](http://TheModernWord.com).