

Newsweek ranks MHS second in state again

Marshfield High School has retained its No. 2 rank in the state, according to Newsweek Magazine.

Once again, Marshfield falls behind Rufus King International Baccalaureate High School in Milwaukee. The rating compares high schools across the nation based on the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at the school, divided by the number of graduating seniors.

On the national list, Marshfield ranked 426, down from 2007, when the school was in 365th place.

"We were kind of flat this year and last year," said MHS AP director Jim Bokern. "This recognition is based on last year's data. In the future, (interest in AP classes is) definitely on an increase."

MHS students said it's good the AP program is recognized.

"A lot of students take (AP classes)," said junior Katy Nelson. "I think it's cool."

AP classes help students who plan to pursue higher education to test out of or prepare for college-level learning. After taking an AP class, students take a test, which gives them a rating from 1 to 5. Students who earn a rating of 3 or higher can usually receive credit for a related college-level course.

Not all students taking AP classes choose to take the tests.

"Going into the class, you want to take the test," said junior Chelsea Tilson. "I thought the class I took was hard for me."

Bokern recently received a note from a graduate, who thanked him for promoting AP and said she was able to graduate from college in three years -- saving tuition costs.

Marshfield has been on Newsweek's list since 2005, slowly moving up the state rankings. Rufus King, a private school that only offers classes geared toward the International Baccalaureate tests, has been at the top of the list since 2003.

According to Newsweek, about 5 percent of nearly 27,000 high schools managed to have a ratio of 1.000, which is achieved by the number of tests taken in 2007 equal to the number of graduates. Schools with a ratio of 1 or higher make the list.