

Advanced placement demonstrates the progress of our schools

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Kudos to Rome High School for being named an Advanced Placement Merit school for the first time.

This recognition is the result of at least 20 percent of the students taking AP exams and at least 50 percent of that group earning a score of three or higher in the program based on college-level curricula – which is achievement worth recognizing.

All five local public schools made at least one AP honors list released by the Georgia Department of Education, a sign for school officials that students are rising to the challenge of the more difficult advanced placement studies.

For icing on the cake, every Rome area high school – Armuchee, Coosa, Model, Pepperell and Rome – was named an AP STEM school, based on students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, studies that are essential to equipping students for an increasingly technological world.

All four Floyd high schools were named AP Challenge schools, which are defined as schools having enrollments of 900 or fewer with students testing in the core areas of English, math, science and social studies.

Three schools — Armuchee, Pepperell and Rome — were named as AP STEM Achievement schools, meaning they have students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses and scoring a minimum of 40 percent of exam scores on AP math and science exams earning scores of 3 or higher. Two county schools, Coosa and Pepperell, also made the AP Humanities list for students testing in ELA, social science, fine arts and world language courses.

Advanced Placement, which may be unfamiliar to people not associated with the schools, is a program that brings significant benefits to students, including the advantage of getting college course credits in high school. That's a bonus in addition to the higher level of challenge for participating students.

The AP honors are deserving recognition for the students and as confirmation of the progress being made in our schools. Congratulations to the students, teachers, parents and the school leadership.