

Results of MLHS AP Student Forum

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Background of AP Forum

On Monday, April 8th, members of the Student Government Association (SGA) led a forum for students who are currently enrolled in AP classes.

140 students participated in Focus Group discussions and completed a survey to share their experiences with and attitudes toward the AP exam policies and curriculum.

It is the hope of the SGA that the Board will consider these results when evaluating any changes to our AP Program.

Should participation in the exam be mandatory?

Discussion Question

- Majority thought **no** - added too much stress, test is too expensive, some colleges do not accept credit
- If test was mandatory: **83.6%** said would still enroll in the class
- Some options students discussed:
 - School pays for all or half of cost of tests
 - Seniors should not have to take tests because they are already in college

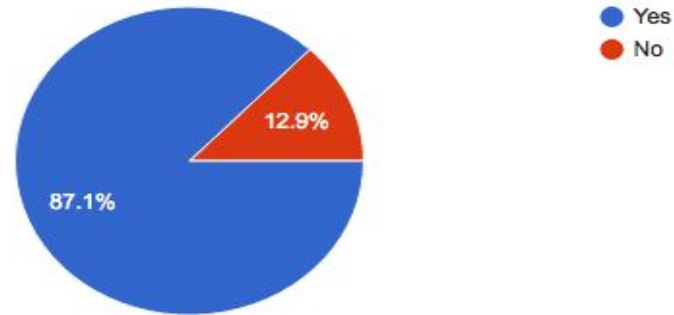
Should students receive GPA weighting if they don't take the AP exam?

Majority think yes

- Students still working hard throughout the year

Should a student receive an "AP" GPA if s/he doesn't take the test?
(Perhaps "just" the Honors GPA bump)

140 responses



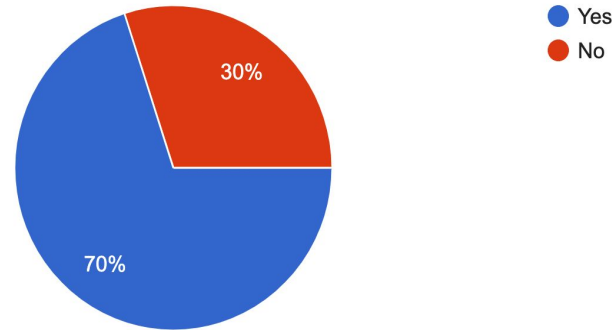
Would your course selections be different if

Common theme: “I wanted to take class x but instead took class y to boost my GPA/transcript”

- Anatomy, forensics, western civ named as classes students would like to be honors

Would any of your course selections be different if the GPA “bumps” for Honors and AP didn’t exist?

140 responses



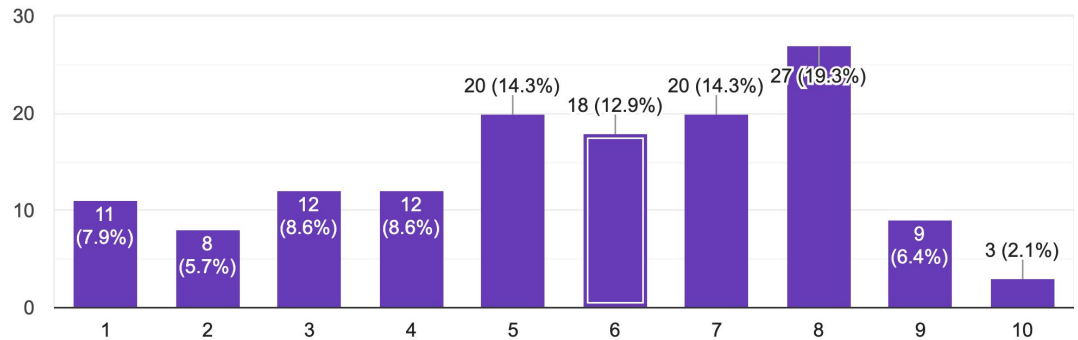
How stressed are you about APs? 1-10 scale

Ideas discussed:

- Junior year is most stressful year (APs, SAT/ACT)
- Depends on the class - some APs are easier than honors/regular in reality

How stressed out about AP classes are you on a scale of 1-10? How stressed out about AP tests are you on a scale of 1-10? Why/why not?

140 responses



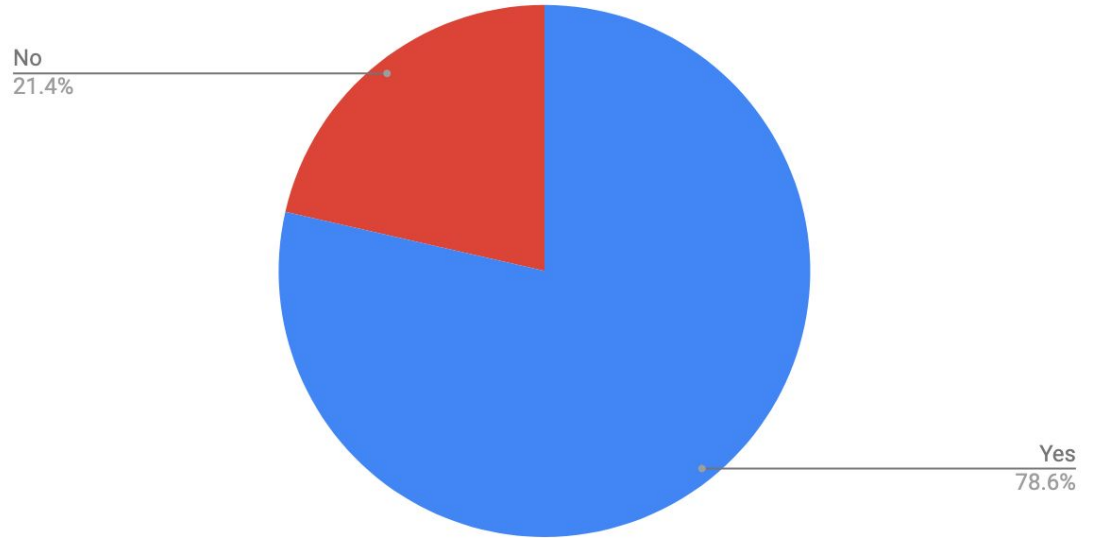
Average response: 5.61

Does the MLHS “culture” create pressure to take APs?

Discussion notes:

- Many who thought “yes” also noted this happens in many schools
- “MLHS makes it cool to be smart”

Count of Does the MLHS “culture” create pressure on students to take too many AP classes?



Focus Group Themes

- Most students identify that they take AP courses because:

“It looks good for college” “GPA Boost” “College Credit” “Feel like you have to”

- Few students identified that they take AP courses due to a genuine interest in the content.
- While most students said they would take the AP exam if it was mandatory, they also felt that AP exams should not be mandatory