

CENTRAL JERSEY COLLEGE PREP

CHARTER SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5, Issue 5, March, 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this newsletter finds you stay safe and warm.

Recently, we observed the 100th instructional day in the academic calendar, leaving 80 more days until

the end of the school year. Despite significant challenges, this is an enormous accomplishment, and I thank each of you for working with us during this historical school year. Together, we have persevered and have continued to provide a high-quality education for our entire community. With so much happening, I wanted to update each of you on a few key developments:

Continued Academic Measurement and Support:

Our goal is to minimize the negative impact of Covid-19 on our students' academic, social, and emotional growth. We are currently in the process of measuring the academic progress of our students. Through a series of assessments, we will be analyzing the data and providing individualized reports with customized support options. This year, we still are offering in-person and online tutoring.

Summer Learning Opportunities:

CJCP will also be providing summer learning opportunities – which will serve as a huge investment for the school. Our goals this summer will look to address (a) closing the achievement gap among races and other sub-groups, and (b) that all students start the next school year at least on the grade level. Knowing the economic challenges facing our community, we will make these opportunities available for free to all students who live in low-income households.

School Funding:

CJCP continues to do more with less. According to the NJDOE's Taxpayer's Guide to Education Spending, our school's expense per child was \$13,781 for the school year 2018-19, which is the most recent data available

on the NJDOE's website. By contrast, per pupil, Franklin Township Schools spends \$23,761, New Brunswick spends \$24,596, and North Brunswick spends \$21,744 for. Simply put, our expenses are 40% less than the average of all three districts while we significantly outperform the sending school districts.

Enrollment:

Once again, our communities showed their strong support for CJCP, submitting thousands of applications for the school year 2021-22. As an important update, based on state direction, CJCP will only be able to enroll a total of 140 new students in Kindergarten and sixth grades. Unfortunately, the number of new students we could enroll in Kindergarten has been reduced by the NJDOE from 96 to 72 students. Therefore, we are able to offer enrollment to only a limited number of new families this year. Our lottery will be taking place on March 10 & 11, and we invite all our parents who put in an application for a sibling to join our lottery. It will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel. Please go to YouTube and search for our school.

In addition, as many of you know, we petitioned the NJDOE to maintain our original 96 students. Unfortunately, after hearing from some particularly strong, influential opposition from our local school districts, this request was rejected. I know many CJCP families were involved in this effort and even wrote the NJ Commissioner of Education directly, and I just wanted to thank each of you for your passion and support. While this rejection by the State was a clear setback, and driven solely by politics, we will continue to fight for the thousands of families who are unable to attend CJCP.

Academic Achievement:

CJCP has continuously demonstrated improvement even after the Blue-Ribbon award was granted in 2016.

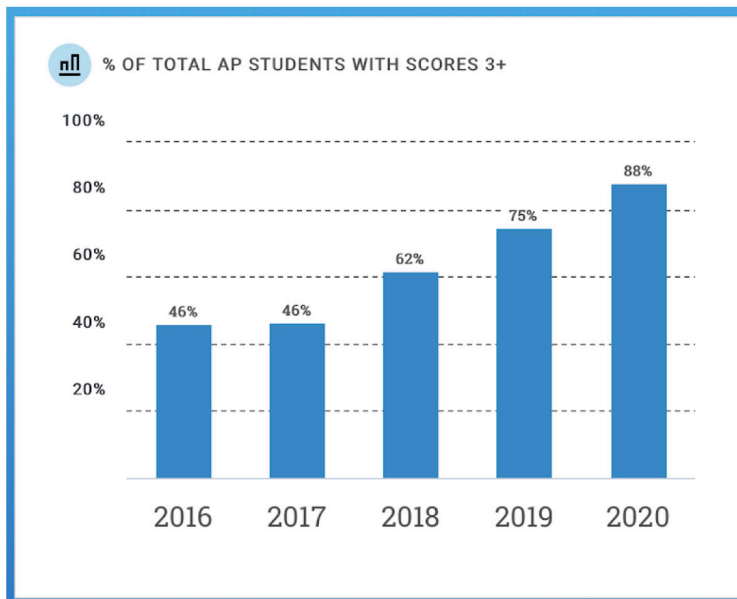
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Last year's results from the Advanced Placement tests, as shown below, are great examples of such improvement despite Covid-19 challenges.

I hope this update is helpful and please know you can contact my office at any time if you have any questions

or concerns. CJCP continues to work hard to ensure equitable educational opportunities for our community. Our students and parents deserve the best quality education.

Sincerely,
Dr. Namik Sercan, CEO



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total AP Students	78	93	86	91	98
Number of Exams	147	158	156	197	186
AP Students with Scores 3+	36	43	53	68	86
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	46.2	46.2	61.6	74.7	87.8

We are quite excited to share with you the news of launching a school-wide enrichment program which is founded on the gifted-learner research conducted by Dr. Renzulli and Dr. Reis. The Renzulli Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) offers learning opportunities centered on students' interests, learning styles, favorite forms of expression, and individually-tailored problem-/project-based activities. This student-centered holistic approach to pedagogy utilizes highly differentiated instruction. By employing the Renzulli SEM learning strategy, students can gain a deeper understanding of their own learning needs, motivations, skill and knowledge strengths, and inspirations integral to their continual committed engagement in producing high quality learning outcomes.

This school-wide enrichment program creatively supports student self-directed and autonomous responsibility for learning. The students and teachers have access to a database where they can collaboratively select projects advancing student individual and communal learning goals. The Renzulli SEM student-constructed portfolios, project- and problem-based inquiries promote students' high-order critical thinking capacity, enable collecting contents-specific information on a regular basis and classifying the details into broad-scope constructs and concepts. Peer review of various stages of the portfolio progress broadens and deepens the overall body of knowledge and distinctively nonlinear utility of the shared ideas. The extensive listing

of project options available via the Renzulli SEM assists the students in mastering their disciplinary expertise and deepens their working knowledge of practical applications of their newly gained skills.



A firm technological integration of the delivery method of the Renzulli SEM empowers students to practice investigative skills and to transform their organic curiosity into the skills required to develop an active and change-fostering presence within the various facets of the contemporary globally-linked world. The Renzulli SEM includes a carefully curated virtual library of pre-evaluated resources such as websites, books, research articles, softwares, films, videos, etc. These learning tools supplement academic components of the ongoing instruction and celebrate its effectiveness by incorporating another fluidly customizable dimension to our learning platform, thus ensuring that all members of our learning community have an equal opportunity to flourish and to enjoy a collective sense of personal fulfillment. With the support of the Renzulli SEM, we very much look forward to our continued encouraging each other's learning efforts, solidifying each other's notion of self-efficacy, and honoring and celebrating each other's successes and accomplishments! (Renzulli, 2020).

Dr. Leontaris, Gifted Learner Program Coordinator