



Johnny Germscheid
Communications Coordinator

2990 80th St. E.
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
651-306-7105
germschj@invergrove.k12.mn.us

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Contact: Gerald Sakala, Simley High School Principal
651-306-7105, sakalaj@invergrove.k12.mn.us

Newsweek magazine names Simley one of America's best high schools for a fourth straight year.

For a fourth consecutive year, *Newsweek* magazine recognized Simley High School as one of the best schools in America.

Not only did Simley retain its status as one of the best schools in America but the school's ranking was also nearly cut in half, jumping from 800 to 478.

“This honor is a testament to the dedication our students commit year after year to work hard to prepare themselves for college,” said Simley High School Principal Gerald Sakala. “Our teachers challenge and motivate students so that they are focused and ready to meet the rigorous demands immediately when they start their post-secondary education.”

Newsweek determined rankings based off of six key components: graduation rate (25%), college matriculation rate (25%), AP tests taken per graduate (25%), average SAT/ACT scores (10%), average AP/IB/AICE scores (10%), and AP courses offered (5%).

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Students are especially appreciative of the variety of course offerings and programs available at Simley that prepare them for college.

"I liked all of the opportunities that Simley gave me: athletics, AP classes and PSEO," said Sadie Saindon, a 2011 Simley graduate.

Simley has further expanded its AP program and will offer 14 AP courses this fall including the addition of biology and economics.

The high *Newsweek* ranking marks the second significant achievement that Simley has reached this month. In mid-June, the *Washington Post* ranked Simley High School the 15th public high school in the state of Minnesota in its High School Challenge. The *Post* ranked Simley 959th in the nation. The rankings were determined by dividing the number of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or other college-level tests taken in 2010 by the number of graduating seniors.

"The data that drives these rankings speaks for itself," said Sakala. "Students at Simley High School continue to invest in their education and begin to work towards accomplishing life goals, making Simley an academic institution known for equipping students with the proper tools for success at college and beyond."

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