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# Black River No. 2 in state in new ranking

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Black River Public School has been ranked the second high school in the state and the 245th in the nation by the Challenge Index.

The Challenge Index was developed by Post education reporter Jay Matthews and ranks schools based on the ratio of advanced placement exams or international baccalaureate exams taken in a year to the number of seniors who graduate that year.

The Challenge Index's 2007 results were based on the 2005-2006 school year. At Black River, 93 exams were taken and 28 students graduated in 2005-2006, or about 2.45 exams per graduate.

"The school is very proud of this recognition," said Black River Director of Academics Gregory Dykhouse. "Many of the students at Black River have not only participated in AP examinations, but they've performed very well.

The International Academy based in Bloomfield Hills took the highest ranking in Michigan and seventh in the nation. The tests are administered at a cost to students in the state of Michigan, although in other states the tests are paid for by the state.

Black River student senior Mary Zeller has taken a total of 11 advanced placement exams during her work at Black River Public School.

"I've taken four this year, and four last year, and three my sophomore year," Zeller said.

The exams were taken as the capstone to advanced placement courses the students take instead of regular course work. Good scores on the tests mean students may be able to opt out of college courses.

"It's a relief to have a lot of the general education things out of the way," Zeller said.

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