

TULSA WORLD

Tulsa high school wins 508K grant for AP program

BY ANDREA EGER World Staff Writer

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Memorial High School has won a \$508,000 grant to increase the rigor of its Advanced Placement program.

Because of the three-year grant from the **Tulsa Community Foundation** and the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Memorial will offer the National Math and Science Initiative's Comprehensive AP Program to an estimated 260 students in 2013-14.

"We believe it will impact our academic achievement significantly and strengthen our goal of preparing our students for college and career success. In addition, this partnership will increase our student participation and success with our AP courses in the areas of math, science and English to a level of very high expectations at Memorial High School," said Principal Darin Schmidt.

The National Math and Science Initiative, a nonprofit organization, was launched in 2007 by top leaders in business, education and science to help transform education in the United States.

The grant — the first-ever partnership between private and government sectors to support a NMSI program in Oklahoma — will fund Saturday study sessions and mock AP exams to help prepare students for the actual AP exams, though which they can earn college credit.

There will even be financial incentives offered to help motivate students.

"It's been proven that students who pass one AP test are three times more likely to graduate from college. So, TCF's investment with the State of Oklahoma was a simple one to make," said Phil Lakin, chief executive officer of the Tulsa Community Foundation. "Our investment will train the teachers and incentivize the students, with the end result being many more college graduates."