

## **Advanced placement**

# **CHS earns national honor again**

### ***School recognized with bronze ranking***

BY AMY KENT

Assistant Editor

CLINTON — For the second year in a row, Clinton High School has been named one of the best high schools in the nation — and school administrators are pretty impressed with the accomplishment.

Based on rankings issued by the U.S. News and World Report, Clinton High earned the recognition along with a bronze ranking as one of the nation's tops schools.

One of the qualifying markers that earned CHS its place, is the school's implementation of an advanced placement curriculum. John Jorgensen, director of learning and collaboration for the Clinton School District, said the last several years the district has worked to expand the offerings in advanced placement, recruiting more and more students to make the leap to a more challenging, but more rewarding, education.

"Clinton has been increasing the number of kids and the classes being taken over the last several years," Jorgensen said. "About 25 percent of our kids take AP courses and we actively recruit kids and encourage them strongly to participate. One of the key reasons is there's a real tight correlation between kids that take an AP course and their future success in college. It increases the likelihood they'll be successful." Currently, Clinton High School has 405 AP courses being taken, accounting for about 25 percent of the school's entire student body. Jorgensen said it is difficult to know exactly how many students participated in an AP course because many will take multiple AP courses in a semester.

It is that dedication from the students that earned the school the recognition, said Principal J.R. Kuch.

"It's a tribute to the kids and the staff that work so hard to provide the best here in the school district," Kuch said. "There's great things happening all through the district not just at the high school, so it's nice to be honored for that on a national level." Because the rankings are based on data from the 2013-2014 school year, Kuch and Jorgensen are feeling confident that the 405 AP courses being taken this year will keep the school rankings high.

But, it's not all about the recognition to Kuch — it's about continuing to develop and improve the education provided in Clinton.

"I'm just proud that we have this recognition now. If we're able to get to silver status next year, that would be great," Kuch said. "But, even if not, we're still doing things right and always trying to get better." *Assistant Editor Amy Kent can be contacted at amykent@clintonherald.com.*



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**Sameer Ansari works on a project Friday in Deanna Tegeler's biology class, one of several subjects that offers advanced placement classes at Clinton High School.**