

## **CASHS Named One of the Most Challenging High Schools in the U.S.**

For the second year in a row, the Chambersburg Area Senior High School (CASHS) has been named as one of the Most Challenging High Schools in the U.S. according to information released by the *The Washington Post* on Sunday, April 17.

“This is truly outstanding recognition for our AP program at CASHS. Reaching this goal indicates that we are successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of AP,” said Dr. Joseph Padasak, Superintendent

CASHS is ranked among the 10% of the approximate 22,000 public high schools in the U.S. to meet the required the index of 1.0. According to Jay Matthews, Education Reporter at the *Post*, “We take the total number of Advanced Placement (AP) International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) tests given at a school each year and divide by the number of seniors who graduated in May or June. I call this formula the Challenge Index. With a few exceptions, public schools that achieved a ratio of at least 1.00, meaning they had as many tests in 2015 as they had graduates, were put on the national list.”

“We are pleased that our students and teachers continue to understand the value and importance of AP and IB courses in the high school which is evident by our growth in student numbers and performance. Notably is that CASHS ranks above the national average by 3.5% in Equity and Excellence, which is the percentage of seniors who graduated in 2015 and took at least one AP course in high school. The CASD strives to provide rigorous and challenging courses to all students who want to be prepared for the college workload,” said Michelle Holtry, CASHS head teacher for academics.