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Local students rank highly in 'college readiness' study

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ARDEN HILLS — Mounds View High School and Irondale High School were both named among the best high schools in the country last week by U.S. News & World Report (December 2009 issue) in an evaluation of student performance on reading and math tests and school performance in preparing students for college.

The schools were among only 11 Minnesota high schools ranked in the "silver" category in a system that placed high-performing schools into gold, silver, bronze or honorable mention divisions based on academic and enrollment data. The report, posted on www.usnews.com, said 21,700 schools were analyzed, with state test scores and the performances of minority and economically disadvantaged students factored in.

No Minnesota high schools were in the gold medal category ranking the top 100 high schools in the nation. The best high school was deemed to be Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va., which was given 100 percent on a college readiness index.

The report ranked Mounds View High at 43.7 out of 100 using that index. All silver medalists had a college readiness index of 20 or above.

College readiness was defined as "a measure of the degree to which some students master some college-level material."

The report noted the following of Mounds View High's student population: it's 85.1 percent white, 9.6 percent Asian, 3.1 percent black, 1.8 percent Hispanic and .4 percent American Indian, with a total minority enrollment of 5.3 percent and economically disadvantaged student enrollment of 7.9 percent.

Irondale High demographics included the following: 82.4 percent white enrollment, 6.8 percent Asian enrollment, 6.1 percent black enrollment, 3.2 percent Hispanic enrollment, 1.6 percent American Indian enrollment and 10.8 percent overall minority enrollment. Economically disadvantaged student enrollment was listed at 23.7 percent. Irondale was ranked at 34.4 percent in college readiness.

Advanced Placement student participation rate was listed as 48.1 percent at Mounds View and 41.1 percent at Irondale.

-Michelle Miron

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