

TOP HIGH SCHOOLS

65 LOCAL SCHOOLS RANKED—WHERE IS YOURS ON THE LIST? p.126

sacramento

AUGUST 2008

277
Winners

BEST RESTAURANTS

EXCLUSIVE LOCAL SURVEY RESULTS

READERS' VOTES
PLUS EDITORS' PICKS

p.108

- APPETIZERS
- BAKERY
- BARBECUE
- BIG PORTIONS
- BREAKFAST
- BURGER
- COFFEEHOUSE
- CUPCAKES
- DINING SECRET
- TAKEOUT
- HAPPY HOUR
- ICE CREAM PARLOR
- NEW RESTAURANT
- OUTDOOR DINING
- PIZZA
- ROMANTIC
- SEAFOOD

SPECIAL

STEAK

...AND MORE

\$3.95

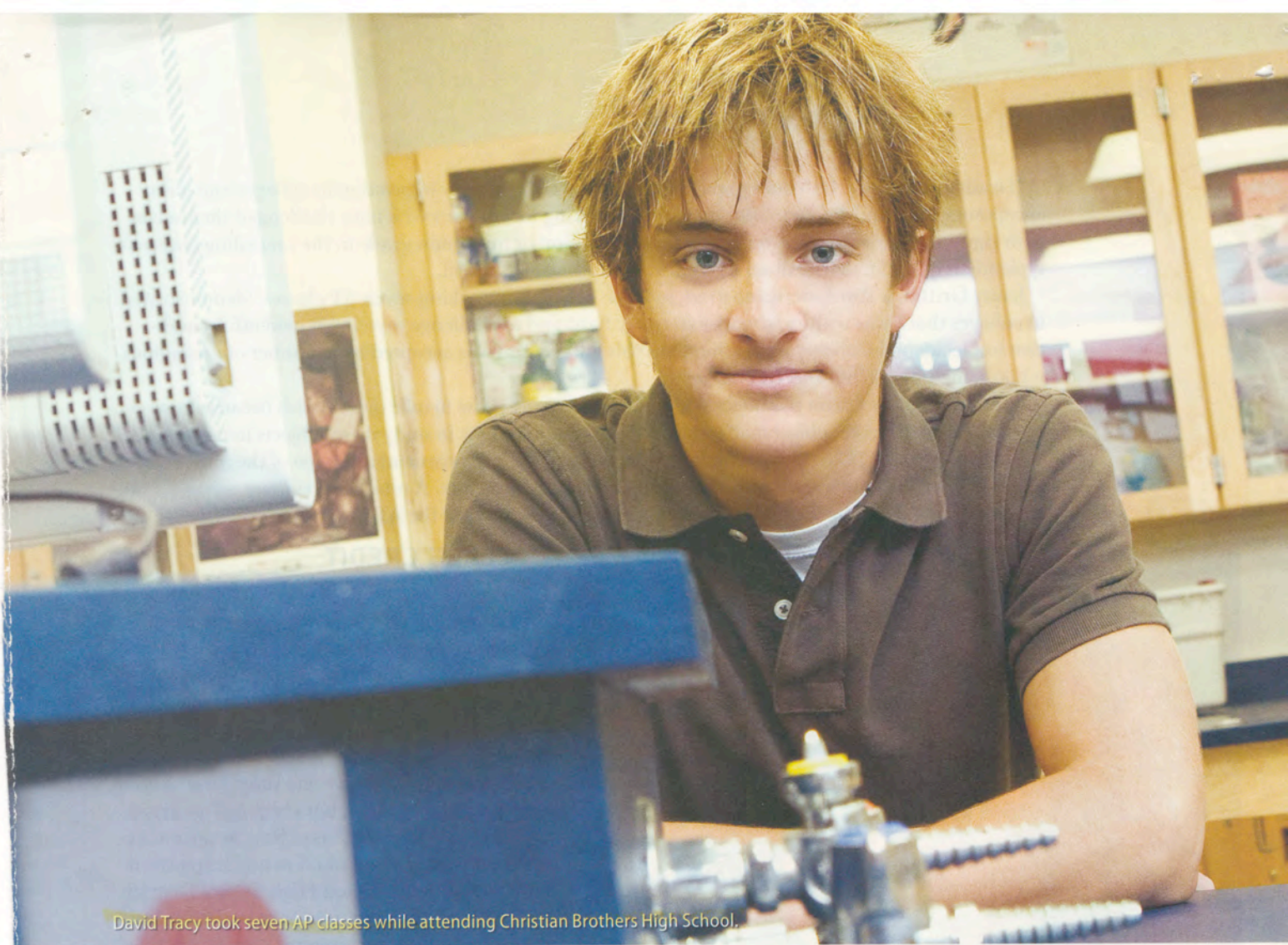
#BXBJHFT 8 73 *****AUTO**5-DIGIT 95820
 #95820MGO431JB004#
 LMD SCMT 400 MAR 09
 Kevin McGovern
 Christian Brothers High
 4315 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
 Sacramento CA 95820-2797

|||||



- DELTA WINERIES
- "I WENT ON A MONEY DIET"
- SHOP, EAT AND DRINK IN AMADOR COUNTY

Leatherby's, voted tops by Sacramento magazine readers



David Tracy took seven AP classes while attending Christian Brothers High School.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

If it seems you're hearing the term AP more than you used to, rest assured it's not your imagination. AP—advanced placement—are college-level courses offered at the high school level, giving students the opportunity to challenge themselves academically and, potentially, kick up their GPA a notch. (Classes are weighted on a five-point scale.) And since a 4.5 GPA looks better to college admissions officers than does a mere 4.0, savvy Gen Yers are jumping on the AP bandwagon with the same kind of fervor they reserve for text messaging.

But here's the kicker. While you'd expect to find an AP bonanza at top-notch schools like Granite Bay (where 16 AP subjects are offered), even some of the area's lower-ranked schools are ramping up their offerings, and not in a shy way: Grant Union, for example, has eight AP courses on tap for fall. That, plus the fact that students may request an intradistrict transfer (or, in some cases, just sign up for an individual course) if their school doesn't offer the AP class of their choice, makes the program a viable option for most any student who is willing to take on the challenge.

THE CHALLENGE: AS IMPORTANT AS GPA

"Personal challenge" was one of the main reasons he took seven AP classes during his years at Christian Brothers, says David Tracy, who also benefited from the GPA boost (4.5) that helped him get into UCLA, where he is headed this fall. "When I took AP world history, it was purely for competition—to satisfy my competitive side," he says. Tracy also enjoyed being treated "more like an adult in those AP classes than in my regular classes. You're not given 'baby' homework every night. It's your responsibility to do as well as you want."

That kind of spunk, regardless of GPA, always looks good in the eyes of college admissions officers, says Dennis Carocci, the recently retired associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction for El Dorado Union School District.

Enrollment: 2,149
2007 API Base score: 603
Statewide rank: 2
2006–2007 SAT averages: 412 Critical Reading, 452 Math, 420 Writing
Graduation rate: 59 percent

GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Grant Joint Union High School District
Enrollment: 2,158
2007 API Base score: 593
Statewide rank: 1
2006–2007 SAT averages: 382 Critical Reading, 402 Math, 381 Writing
Graduation rate: 92 percent

GENESIS HIGH SCHOOL

Sacramento City Unified School District
Enrollment: 218
2007 API Base score: 546
Statewide rank: 1
2006–2007 SAT averages: not available
Graduation rate: 49 percent

AMERICA'S CHOICE HIGH SCHOOL

Sacramento City Unified School District
Enrollment: 111
2007 API Base score: 544
Statewide rank: 1
2006–2007 SAT averages: not available
Graduation rate: 74 percent

Schools with no rank available:

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCES

Sacramento City Unified School District
Opened September 2007
Enrollment: 66

VISTA DEL LAGO HIGH SCHOOL

Folsom Cordova Unified School District
Opened August 2007
Enrollment: 603 (ninth and 10th grades only)

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

KATINA FEIL, Christian Brothers High School

Christian Brothers High School has prepared me very well for college. The school lays out all the classes you must take in order to graduate. All of our courses are also required to get into college. The faculty academically prepares us for college all four years with rigorous courses. They also challenge the students to do well. The school combines our religious standpoint into most of our classes. Religion truly is the foundation of our school. My experience at Christian Brothers has been an exquisite one. With much respect from the teachers and students, our school is no ordinary school; it is a community. Teachers are always positive and willing to push students to their fullest potential.



ANTONIO LOVE, Florin High School

Attending Florin High has created a major building block in my life. The school had a purpose greater than the experiences it gave, although the experiences were great. Most of the teachers here are exceptional, if not masterful, at teaching. They are animated and not disconnected from the student body, making learning from them quite enjoyable. One perfect example is my former AP English language and composition teacher, Mr. Don Pedersen. He orchestrates sarcasm and humor so harmoniously that it's almost unbelievable. Like the other teachers, he is challenging but not overwhelming.



Unfortunately, though, shrouding the cool staff is a virus plaguing some of the students: lack of school spirit. There's not enough to motivate the athletes to excel or persevere. I've watched fewer than 20 sports games total!

The composition of students makes up for this, however. Florin has to be the most diverse campus in the Elk Grove Unified School District. One of my passions is making people laugh, so the smorgasbord of people allowed me to diversify my humor's portfolio. The greatest thing Florin has done for me—its purpose—is make me worldlier.

STEPHANIE BEACHLEY, Loretto High School

I've spent the past four years of my life waking up at 5:30 in the morning, driving 45 minutes to school and wearing a uniform skirt. Even though I commute to Sacramento from Auburn and dedicate two to three hours of time to homework each night, I've come to realize it was all worth it. Loretto High School is one of the best choices I've ever made for myself. I could have gone to a public school like every other girl in my eighth grade class, but after my Shadow Day visit—a program where elementary students visit and follow a Loretto student around to her classes for a day—I knew Loretto would be home. It's not a huge campus. There are only 123 girls in my graduating class and no male students. Yet I still declare that Loretto is a wonderful place of growth and inspiration. As I graduate this year, I look upon the past four years I've spent walking through the halls. I look back on all the laughs I've shared with teachers and other faculty members that have knowledge of everything from perfecting term papers to African dancing to how to survive in college. It's been an experience I'll never forget. I've been on a journey I'll never regret. In the fall, I'm heading off to Oregon State University and looking back on my Loretto years, I've realized every bit has been worth it.

