



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. News & Newsweek Rank SCS High Schools among America's Best

Several Shelby County high schools are among the best public high schools in America, according to reports by *U.S. News* and *Newsweek* magazine published in May 2012.

U.S. News ranked Houston High School and Collierville High School on its list of "Top Performing" public high schools in the nation. Out of the 21,776 schools eligible for the national rankings, Houston is listed 1,036, and Collierville is 1,071. The two schools were ranked seventh and ninth in Tennessee, respectively.

Newsweek magazine's annual list of "America's Best High Schools" includes Collierville High School, Germantown High School and Houston High School among the top 1,000. Collierville ranked 530, Houston ranked 765 and Germantown ranked 990. This is Germantown High's first time on the *Newsweek* list. Collierville has earned the distinction four of the last five years, and Houston has made the list in each of the last three years.

U.S. News partnered with the Washington, D.C.-based American Institutes for Research (AIR) to determine the state and national rankings. Schools were first analyzed at the state level based on school-wide performance on state assessments. National rankings factored in college readiness by tracking student success in college-level courses, such as Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to the 4,877 "top-performing" high schools. Only the top 2,008 schools received a Gold or Silver medal and numerical national ranking. Houston and Collierville both earned Silver medal rankings.

The *Newsweek* rankings highlight "the best 1,000 public high schools in the nation," which are recognized as being the most effective at turning out college-ready grads. *Newsweek* researchers use six criteria to determine the 2012 rankings: the four-year graduation rate, college-acceptance rate and number of AP and other high-level exams given per student account for 75 percent of the overall score; average SAT/ACT and AP/college-level test scores each count for another 10 percent; and the number of AP courses offered per student is weighted as the final 5 percent.

Read the full *U.S. News* report here:

<http://www.usnews.com/education/high-schools/articles/2012/05/08/us-news-ranks-nations-best-high-schools>

Read the full **Newsweek** report here:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/features/2012/americas-best-high-schools.html>

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