



In Advanced Placement, perseverance pays off

Robert Bunszell relied on his teachers to make sure he never gave up

“If you put
in the work,
you will be
successful.”

Meet Robert Bunszell
Whitman-Hanson
Class of 2014
AP Student

Robert Bunszell is an active senior at one of Mass Insight Education's school partners that doubled their number of qualifying exam scores after their first year in the AP/STEM program. In addition to being on the football, wrestling, and track/field teams at the school, Robert is also enrolled in AP Chemistry, AP US History, AP Calculus, AP Psychology. He has taken full advantage of the increased offerings at Whitman-Hanson.

While AP Chemistry is his favorite course now, before enrolling he hadn't thought he would be an AP student. Mass Insight helped change that for dozens of students like Robert who were able to challenge themselves in this more rigorous program because of the support from Mass Insight and the excellence of their teachers.

Like many students who study STEM subjects in high school, Robert has benefited from the academic rigor. While he may not plan on pursuing a career in science, he knows the analytical and inquiry skills he has learned in AP will help him as he

pursues a career on the business side of sports management.

One of Mass Insight's success stories, Whitman-Hanson Regional High School-located 25 miles south of Boston- has experienced tremendous success in the program. Through the program's open access policy, the school has been able to increase enrollments in STEM AP courses by **127%** in just three years. In addition, the number of qualifying scores earned in the first two years is more than the scores combined from the previous five years before they entered the program.

We caught up with Robert for his personal perspective on enrolling in AP.

You weren't confident about taking an AP course at first – what was holding you back?

I had heard that AP Chemistry was a tough class, and I personally had never taken an AP class before. I did not know how much work each would require and if I would struggle heavily in the classes.

What made you more successful and confident over the year?

My teacher Mrs. Patterson really took the time to sit down and help me through the year. For me personally, it was just

not clicking and Mrs. Patterson help me understand what we were doing through extra help. I was able to finally understand what we were doing and I was able to receive a 3 on the AP exam, which I was overjoyed about.

What is the most valuable thing that you learned in AP?

The most valuable thing I learned through AP Classes is that you have to put in the work or you will not be successful. If you try to coast through an AP class, no matter how smart you are, you will not succeed unless you put in the time and the extra effort to try and score high on the AP exam.