

Class Description – AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success, and is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated study groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth.

Standards:

WICOR: Forms the basis of the AVID curriculum. It stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading.

- Writing: Students focus on clarifying and communicating their thoughts in all subjects, and better understanding materials learned in their core courses.
- Inquiry: AVID is based on inquiry, not lecture. The students will be engaged in many activities, from Cornell note taking to tutorial groups which are built on students asking questions, which forces them to clarify, analyze, and synthesize material.
- Collaboration: The AVID classroom is not a traditional one in which a teacher lectures to passive students. An AVID teacher is a facilitator, advocate, coach, and cheerleader. The students, not the teachers or tutors are responsible for their learning.
- Organization: Students are required to keep their binders neat, updated, and completely organized. Binders are graded weekly. Students are also taught how to effectively manage their time in order to have a balanced and organized school and personal life.
- Reading: AVID students simply don't merely read words on a page. They are taught to analyze, question, critique, clarify, and comprehend the material. This technique alone will turn students from passive learners into active classroom contributors and critical thinkers, an approach that's necessary for college admission and success.
- Cornell Notes: Students will learn how to take and study from the Cornell Note-Taking system, using it in all core courses. Cornell Notes are designed to make studying easier.

Supplies (Required)

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| 1 | 2" – 3" 3-ring binder (provided by teacher) |
| 1 | 3-hole zippered pencil/supply pouch (provided by teacher) |
| 2 | Pens, Black or Blue only |
| 3 | Pencils |
| 1 | Highlighter(s) |
| | Subject Dividers (provided by teacher) |
| | Packs of Loose Leaf Paper (no jagged edges will be accepted) |

Supplies (Suggested But Not Required)

- Reinforcements/Paper Savers
- Eraser
- Pencil Sharpener
- Portable 3-hole punch
- Colored Pencils/Pens/Markers
- Calculator

Differentiation/Accessibility Strategies and Support (TAG, ELL, SpEd, Other)

May include: group work, modified assignments, modified tests, pre-assessments, graphic organizers, templates, use of manipulatives, visual models, checklists, preview of vocabulary, and reading aloud

*AVID is all about skills. Students will be supported in improving themselves from where they are currently and progressing towards class goals.

Grading – All students are expected to participate in daily class activities, complete their learning logs, be active in tutorials, complete homework and projects, and successfully integrate WICOR strategies in all of their courses. Students will complete all assigned work. Students who are absent need to make-up work upon return. Always check our class website and the AVID binder in the classroom. Please speak with the teacher in private if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about your grade. The only way to fail this class is if you don't do the work.

All work will be graded as follows, according to these learning standards for the AVID system:

- Character Development (CD)
- Communication (COMM)
- Writing (WRI)
- Inquiry (INQ)
- Collaboration (COLL)
- Organization (ORG)
- Reading (REA)
- College Preparedness (CP)

Student Contract: It is required that each student and parent sign a contract committing to the AVID program for one year. Students that do not maintain the terms of the contract may be placed on probation with possible removal from the program if the standards are not met. The two main requirements being the maintaining a “C” average in their core classes, and maintaining satisfactory citizenship, discipline, and attendance in all classes and around the building.

Success in the AVID Program: The AVID elective class can be challenging and rigorous. It requires a commitment from the student and parental support to get the most out of this exceptional class. With these factors in place, the AVID class can be stimulating, engaging, and rewarding. Please check your student’s planner on a regular basis, contact the teacher at any time, and talk with your student on how they are doing.

Progress Reports- Progress Reports from my class are sent home every two weeks for your perusal and signature.

Team Rules – The following are the five basic rules of our classroom.

1. Students and teacher will come to class on time and be prepared.
2. Students and teacher will respect school property, themselves, and others.
3. Students and teacher will follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Students and teacher will do their best work.
5. Students and teacher will support others to also do their best work.

The following consequences will apply if any of rules are not followed.

1st Offense -- Verbal check-in/ problem solving

2nd Offense-- Think Sheet

3rd Offense -- Contact family (Stage 1 referral)

4th Offense -- Contact family again (Stage 1 referral)

5th Offense – Stage 2 referral; contact with administrators, contact home; possible behavior contract to remain in AVID class

AVID Parent Nights- There will be AVID Parent Nights scheduled throughout the year. Students and parents will be notified when they are scheduled.

Parents and Guardians – Please discuss this syllabus with your child, then have both of you sign below stating that you’ve read and understood its contents. Turning in this completed syllabus (PAGE 3 ONLY) represents a grade towards the standard of “Communication”. In addition, please know that a good tool for communication is your child’s planner. They will be recording all classwork and homework in it. You can contact me with a message they show me in the planner, as well as by phone, e-mail, or by visiting me at school.

AVID Syllabus Signatures Sheet

Parent/Guardian

By signing below, I am stating that I have read the syllabus and standards for this class and am willing to support my child to be successful in whatever ways that I can.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student

By signing below, I am stating that I have read the syllabus and standards for this class and am willing to follow the rules and do the best that I can.

Student's Name (Print)

Student's Signature

Teacher

By signing below, I am stating that I will do whatever I can to work with the school, family and student to support their success the best that I can.

Teacher Name (Print)

Teacher Signature