

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Avid is a program designed to prepare disadvantaged high school students to meet the requirements for admission to four year colleges and universities. Students enroll in advanced English, history, science, and foreign language classes, and in AVID as an elective class. In the AVID class, students are tutored by college students and taught skills needed to be successful in these advanced college preparatory classes. In particular, students are taught study skills, note taking, time management, writing, and research skills. Students also learn about colleges and universities (especially the application and financial aid processes) and prepare for college admission tests such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Tests (ACT). Students take field trips to various college campuses and cultural events. Numerous guest speakers from the community speak to the AVID class about their experiences and career options.

AVID Objectives:

- To provide academic instruction and other support to students and to prepare them for eligibility to four-year colleges and universities.
- To give students college level entry skills.
- To increase the "coping skills" of program participants.
- To motivate program students to seek a college education.
- To increase the participant's levels of career awareness.
- To involve parents in their child's education.

AVID Activities:

- Learning with college tutors.
- Writing for all classes.
- Developing success strategies.
- Applying for college.
- Preparing for a professional career.
- Visiting college campuses.
- Interacting with guest speakers.
- Participating in extra-curricular and community activities.

The following represents a typical week in an AVID classroom:

- Monday: Students learn how to take notes from textbooks used in academic classes.
Tuesday: Tutoring college tutors work with students in student groups assisting them in all academic areas).
Wednesday: Instruction in writing skills using the AVID curriculum.
Thursday: Tutoring.
Friday: Field trip or guest speaker.

"The AVID teacher is committed to the students and their success more than to the program. Since the teacher stays with the same students for four years, the emotional ties and support become much stronger and more important than in any other class. The position requires extra times for contact and conferencing with the students' parents and other teachers. Since students from the "middle" are placed in more challenging classes than they have probably ever taken, their success is directly related to the extra support outside of the AVID class for tutoring and counsel."