



Syllabus for Freshman AVID

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Course Description 9th Grade AVID Elective Class

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success; it 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 the 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 (WICOR) to support their academic growth.

Some students will have previous experience with AVID at the middle grades, and some students will be experiencing AVID for the first time. Either way, the ninth grade AVID Elective course will serve as a review of the AVID philosophy and strategies. Students will work on academic and personal goals and communication, adjusting to the high school setting. Students will increase awareness of their personal contributions to their learning, as well as their involvement in their school and community. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, focusing on personal goals and thesis writing. Students will work in collaborative settings, learning how to participate in collegial discussions and use sources to support their ideas and opinions. Students will prepare for and participate in college entrance and placement exams, while refining study skills and test-taking, note-taking, and research techniques. They will take an active role in field trip and guest speaker preparations and presentations. Their college research will include financial topics and building their knowledge on colleges and careers of interest.

AVID Curriculum Books Used

- AVID College and Careers
- Implementing and Managing the AVID Program for High School
- High School Writing
- Organizing the AVID Student Binder
- Strategies for Success
- AVID Tutorial Support Curriculum Resource Guide
- Preparing for College Grades 11-12
- AVID Weekly

The AVID elective class for freshmen is the beginning of a four-year commitment by students. Students will learn reading strategies that will help them in their high school courses. Texts will vary from philosophical pieces to contemporary articles from *AVID Weekly*. Additionally, students will learn how to write to learn and will work on developing their writing skills. During tutorials students will be expected to take ownership of their learning. All students will be expected to maintain an AVID binder, take Cornell notes in all subjects, complete Learning Logs, participate in Socratic Seminars, be active in team-building activities, participate in Philosophical Chairs, complete homework in all subjects on time and

with effort, and so forth. Students are expected to maintain a strong GPA, be leaders, and demonstrate good character.

Student Expectations (as listed on the AVID contract):

- Adhere to school rules and have good attendance.
- Maintain the AVID binder. Write Cornell notes daily.
- Complete all homework assignments for all classes, committing to about two hours daily.
- Prepare tutorial questions before class and participate within the group.
- Maintain enrollment in college preparatory classes with grades of As, Bs, or Cs.
- Make a documented effort to improve any grade that falls below a C, usually by Saturday Success Academy or Academic Resource Center tutoring.
- Maintain a positive attitude and respect for teachers, deans, peers, and parents.
- Participate in charitable events and other volunteer activities, including fundraisers and family nights.
- Attend college field trips.
- Be a leader. Set an example as an AVID student.

iPad Pilot Policy (Accessible Online As Well):

Our class is a part of an iPad pilot in District 214! Through this initiative, you will truly hone your 21st century learning skills vital to your success in both college and career pathways. In plain English, you will learn both English content and technology skills. We will attempt to do most things online through our iPads. With this opportunity, comes some new responsibilities. District 214 is LOANING you over \$500 of FREE* technology. It is your responsibility to secure this investment. If you break it, you bought it. If you lose it, you bought it. If it is stolen, you bought it. If you use this device in violation of our district's Acceptable Use Policy, you can and will face disciplinary action. Please make sure to read these requirements carefully, and be sure you follow these rules!

1. You MUST come to class with your iPad charged (50% or higher) and with you every day; failure to do so will impact your grade.
2. If allowed by your other teachers, you may use your iPad in their classes. If you are off-task (playing games, on social networks, goofing off in general, messaging, Face Timing, Snap Chatting, et al.) in these classes, you will lose your Internet and gaming privileges on your iPad. If a teacher does not want you to have the device out in his or her class, you must keep it in your backpack.
3. You are to be on task in class. If we are reading a passage in our books, you should not be gaming, chatting, or social networking. If you are off task, you will lose your Internet and gaming privileges on your iPad.
4. If you violate our district's Acceptable Use Policy, you will LOSE iPad altogether. You need to familiarize yourself with our district policy. (No lewd photographs on your device, do not use for illicit purposes, etc)
5. Make sure you purchase insurance for your device. Information will follow on how to do this. \$30.00 and a deductible is WAY less expensive than having to repurchase an iPad.
6. Be careful with the device and be sure to secure it at all times. DO NOT leave this device in your gym locker. Lock it in your own personal locker and ensure that you do not share your combination with anybody else.
7. At all times your iPad should be the first thing taken out of your backpack and the last thing taken out of your backpack. Don't ever just toss your backpack with the device inside of it. Do not attempt to record yourself doing flips, or the like, on your device.
8. Do not loan your iPad to other students. This is your device. You are ultimately responsible for it.

9. If you have a D or F in my class, do not read, or do not turn in your work, you will lose Internet and gaming abilities.

10. If you are messaging other students during class time on your device or are found to be using your iPad to cheat on class assignments, you will LOSE your iPad altogether and will face disciplinary actions. You are not allowed to text on your cellphone during class; accordingly, you are not allowed to use your iPad as any sort of communication device during class time in my class or other classes.

Course Evaluation

Binder	30 %
Tutorials	30 %
Coursework (other than Cornell Notes)	30 %
Final Exam	10 %

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59-0% = F

Student's handwritten name : _____

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____