The AVID Elective Course

Course Overview
Grades: 9-12
Length: 4 Years

Prerequisite: Junior School AVID and/or interview and application process Co-Requisite: Enrollment in rigorous college preparatory courses.

Course Philosophy
AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is offered as an elective course that prepares students for entrance into four-year colleges. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, study skills and test taking, note taking, and research.

Course Description/Structure
AVID meets five hours per week. Students receive two hours of instruction per week in college readiness skills, two hours per week in tutor-led study groups, and one hour per week in motivational activities and academic survival skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading to support their academic development and growth.

The AVID curriculum, which is based upon the following resources in the AVID library—College Path, The Student Success Path, and the Writing Curriculum—lays the groundwork for the lessons taught in the AVID elective course.

College Path prepares students for their future with lessons on test-taking skills. Preparation includes instruction in math and English language concepts frequently seen on college entrance tests, as well as practice on "mock" SAT and ACT exams. In the ninth, tenth and eleventh grades, students are encouraged to take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) or the PLAN (Preliminary American College Test). In the eleventh and twelfth grades, students take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and ACT (American College Test).

In The Student Success Path, AVID students learn skills such as time management, note taking, textbook reading, library research, and maintaining the AVID binder. Students are expected to maintain an organized binder, including an assignment calendar, class and textbook notes, assignments, and homework, which are graded regularly.

Through the Writing Curriculum, AVID stresses the importance of "writing as a tool for learning." This strategy forms the basis of all assignments. Writing preparation revolves around the improvement of writing in all subject areas because writing clarifies thought. In AVID, students learn that writing is a process. Students are expected to use this process in all grade level writing assignments.

On tutorial days, students work with Academic Coaches, many of whom are former AVID students and graduates of the schools in which they work. Academic Coaches assist students in small groups with academic questions that students bring to tutorial sessions. Students are required to take notes during tutorial and use class and textbook notes to inform their discussions during tutorial. Academic Coaches help students with the process of learning through inquiry, rather than giving students the answers to their questions. Students learn the value of working with others in tutorial.

In AVID, students also participate in motivational activities including college and career research, college and career outreach speakers, field trips to colleges and businesses and other educational opportunities in their communities, as well as, service learning experiences. These activities provide students with the resources they need to learn about positive opportunities available to them in the community.

Objectives of the Course
1. Students will take courses that meet four-year college entrance requirements.
2. Students will participate in tutorials for academic courses.
3. Students will learn and apply AVID skills including note taking, organization, time-management and goal setting.
4. Students will improve their oral communication skills through a variety of activities, including presentation and Socratic Seminar.
5. Students will participate in writing to learn activities, including note taking, learning logs, and essay writing.
6. Students will learn to evaluate their own and other’s writing, using rubrics and scoring guides.
7. Students will prepare for college entrance examinations, including the SAT and ACT.
8. Students will complete and present a Multi-Grade Level Portfolio of their work in AVID.

Assessment Procedures
AVID students will be assessed using a variety of performance-based assessments. They will be judged not only on the AVID "basics" such as, a well-organized notebook, participation in tutorials, and note taking, but also according to their performance on timed writings, practice college entrance tests, participation in Socratic Seminars, and other activities. Students are required to develop and present the Multi-Grade Level Portfolio at the end of each year, representing their work in the AVID program.

Portfolio Contents
Portfolio contents will include but not be limited to the following:
1. Grade level AVID writing curriculum.
2. Analytical essays with rubrics.
3. Four-year Plan.
4. Cornell Notes taken in content areas.
5. Timed writings with rubrics.

Course Outline

**Semester One**
Test-taking skills
Preparing for Tests and How to Study for College
A Week in the AVID Elective WICOR
Introduction to the AVID Binder
Introduction to AVID Skills
AVID Alert and AVID Good News
Introduction to AVID Note-taking
Introduction to AVID Tutorial
Grade specific Writing Curriculum
The Three-Part Essay
PSAT/PLAN and SAT/ACT preparation
Registration for PSAT, PLAN, SAT, ACT
Ongoing tutorials
Ongoing binder checks
Oral language development
Motivational activities
Final exam preparation

**Semester Two**
Semester 1 portfolio entries
Semester 2 academic goal setting
PSAT/PLAN and SAT/ACT preparation
Planning Your Education
Introduction to Holistic Scoring
Timed writing practice
Grade Specific Writing Curriculum
Ongoing tutorials
Ongoing binder checks
Oral language development
Motivational activities
Review test-taking skills
Prepare for final exams
Multi-Grade Level Portfolio preparation
Conferences and Presentations