



Welcome to AVID at Roosevelt High School! (*Advancement Via Individual Determination*)

Course Philosophy

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is offered as an elective course that prepares students for entrance into four-year colleges. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading (WICOR) to support their growth academically.

Course Description/Structure

AVID meets 5 hours per week. Instruction using WICOR strategies are used for two of these hours. Two hours are spent per week in tutor-led study groups. For the remaining hour, students are introduced to motivational activities and other academic skills.

The AVID curriculum consists of the following:

College and Careers – AVID prepares students for their future with lessons on college and career exploration. We also support students in developing the skills they need to be successful in their post-secondary goals.

Strategies for Success – 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 or other organization system which will be graded regularly. The organization system will include a planner, class notes, assignments, and homework. Students must carry and use this system in every class, every day.

Writing Curriculum – AVID stresses the importance of “writing as a tool for learning.” In AVID, students learn that writing is a process. Students are expected to use this process in all grade level writing assignments.

Critical Reading – Develops students’ ability to read, write about, and discuss challenging texts in order to better prepare them for the rigors of their current and future classes.

Tutorials – On these days, students work in small groups with college tutors who assist them with questions from their other classes. Students take notes during tutorials and use class and textbook notes to inform these discussions and learn from each other. Tutors help students with the process of learning through inquiry, rather than giving students the answers to their questions. Tutorials also help students learn the value of working with, learning from, and teaching one another.

Students will also participate in motivational activities including college and career research, guest speakers, field trips, and other education and service-learning opportunities in our community.

Grading

AVID students will be assessed using a variety of assessments. Grades will be based on demonstration of AVID skills. Students will be assessed on timed writings, practice college entrance tests, participation in Socratic Seminars, and other activities.

Teacher Expectations – Students will receive meaningful and timely feedback on assignments to help students gauge their progress and growth in the class. Students will receive clear expectations for each task assigned in class. Additionally, I will keep students informed of their grades and assignments in their classes and work with parents, support networks, and other school staff to ensure students receive the highest level of education possible.

Ethical Practice- Academic Honesty

Students engaged in academic dishonesty will be penalized on the assignment, may be given the opportunity to resubmit the assignment for credit, and they will be reported to their dean for disciplinary action and administration if applicable.

Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating on assignments or tests
- plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another)
- submitting the same or substantially similar papers or creative work for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned.
- depriving another of necessary course materials
- sabotaging another's work
- colluding to support malpractice by another student
- To avoid plagiarism, words and ideas used to support one's argument MUST be acknowledged in all journals, papers and presentations.

In our class, you are required to use MLA citation style. Passages that are quoted verbatim must be enclosed within quotation marks and the author must be acknowledged. Electronic media (websites, etc.) must be treated the same way as books and journals, and the sources of all photographs, maps, illustrations, etc. must also be acknowledged if not your own work.

Please let me know at any time if you have questions, comments, concerns, or if there is anything I can do to better support your student.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Most sincerely,

Mr. Rugnetta

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