

AVID Elective Class
Advancement Via Individual Determination
Autumn 2005—Mrs. Bacher

While the general AVID principles and goals have not changed as part of our focus this year, we have many other tasks that we need to achieve in order to ensure your acceptance into a four-year college or university.

The theme of the junior and senior years of AVID is “Leadership as a Catalyst for Change in Society”. As the future members of the university community and the future leaders of our corporations, government, and beyond, this theme is particularly relevant to our course of study as we prepare to enter the academic world beyond high school. We will use the higher level thinking skills that you have honed for the last 2 years and study, in depth, exceptional leaders in contemporary society, as well as examine the effect these leaders have had on culture, politics, education, history, science, and the arts.

In addition to the academic focus of this AVID Junior/Senior Seminar, there are college-bound activities and tasks that must be achieved. These include test-taking strategies, resume-building skills, letter of recommendation ideas, financial aid information, scholarship applications, and much more.

As the Federal Way Public School District embraces the Standards-Based learning model, the AVID classroom is incorporating vital reading and writing focus standards into it’s curriculum in addition to the following goals for this year.

1. Students will learn to analyze the features and rhetorical devices used in different types of non-fiction: essays, speeches, editorials, scientific reports and historical documents.
2. Students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of significant ideas expressed in a variety of written works by identifying important ideas, recognizing inferences and drawing conclusions.
3. Students will develop various strategies to respond to a text including: annotating a text, writing learning logs, and developing double entry journals and summaries.
4. Students will develop their ability to relate prior knowledge to new information and make connections to related topics of information.
5. Students will demonstrate an ability to articulate a clear thesis on a topic, and identify, evaluate and use evidence to support their thesis.
6. Students will develop the ability to write well-organized essays that are consistently coherent and logically developed.
7. Students will continue to learn to effectively summarize ideas contained in a text.
8. Students will develop skill in writing short answer response essays, including, timed essays.
9. Students will participate in discussions, presenting their ideas in a clear and articulate manner.
10. Students will listen to and respond to the ideas of others.
11. Students will participate in research projects that extend their knowledge of a particular topic and develop and support their own ideas and opinions.
12. Students will develop a leadership role in Socratic Seminars.
13. Students will develop their skills in research techniques.
14. Students will productively participate in both individual and group projects. And discussions.
15. Students will improve their oral communication skills through a variety of means, including presentation, debate, and Socratic Seminar.
16. Students will learn specific strategies to navigate the college admission process by engaging in a variety of activities and tasks.

All students must adequately meet these standards and demonstrate their competency at each, in order to receive credit for the Junior AVID Elective.

“The Rules”:

1. We take notes “every single day in every single class.”
2. “Long Enough to do the Job Well”
3. Missed Tutorials can **not** be made up
4. Higher Level Thinking Questions—every day, all the time.
5. Treat others the way you would like to be treated—kind; respectful; sincere.
6. We are a TEAM! While “individual determination” is vital; so is the TEAM of AVID students.

AVID class Grading Scale Breakdown:

3-Ring Binders	30% of overall grade
Formal Tutorials	20% of overall grade <i>(Tutorials cannot be made up!)</i>
AVID Work	40% of overall grade
Informal Tutorials	10% of overall grade

Miscellaneous:

In the AVID class, we must have the must trust—I trust you to be honest with me; I will be honest with you. This program is college-based academics built around helping students succeed. Success means being well rounded. There are dozens of activities and events going on at Thomas Jefferson High School—I encourage you to attend some of the various events—we will as a class attend some too. This class may look like “more work” initially (Because it is) than your peers, but look beyond now—look long distance and you’ll see that AVID is built for your success. And since together we make a difference, together we will achieve your goals! Stay focused; stay positive...notes in every class, every single day!

By signing this syllabus, I agree that I have read and understood the expectations for success in this class. I agree to comply with the rules and guidelines to make this a great year.

Parent Signature

Date
E-Mail or Phone Number

Student Signature

Date