

Components of the AVID Elective

The AVID elective addresses key elements in college preparation: academic survival skills, college entry skills, tutorials, motivational activities and career and college exploration. Detailed information about each of these areas is included in the AVID libraries.

The typical week in the AVID elective is split up in to three main components – curriculum, tutorial, and motivational activities. The main curriculum in the AVID elective is derived from the *Strategies for Success*, *College and Careers*, and the *Writing Curriculum*. In the following pages, these three components are described in more detail.

Strategies for Success (AVID Library)

The *Strategies for Success* provides tips for students that help them to be successful academically and personally. Lessons in *Strategies for Success* focus on time management, goal setting, organization, notetaking, public speaking, developing portfolios, working with others and preparing for tests. In addition, this resource includes lessons including, but not limited to, Socratic Seminars, critical thinking, concept mapping, and field trips.

The AVID Contract

The AVID Contract is an agreement that students, parents, and teachers sign at the beginning of the school year that acknowledges student goals and responsibilities.

Organization and the Student Binder

The organization of the student binder is critical to student success. It is one of the most important components of evaluation in AVID. In the student binder, students are required to keep a calendar that lists important dates and assignments. In addition, students keep their academic notes, current handouts and assignments, and tests. The student binder is an essential part of The AVID class, and accordingly, it is evaluated weekly by AVID tutors. A binder contents check-off sheet and grade sheet is located in *Strategies for Success*.

College and Careers (AVID Library)

Choosing a college, preparing applications, taking college entrance exams, and finding financial aid is often an overwhelming process. The *College and Careers* is a resource that assists students through these important steps. In this resource, students experience activities that focus on self-awareness and personal development, college entrance examinations, the college admission essay, choosing a college, planning for admission, financial aid, college placement examinations, and career preparation.

A Note About Fundraising

Raising the money to pay for important tests (such as the SAT and ACT), college applications, and field trips is often an important part of being an AVID student. It is essential to be aware of the financial needs of AVID students and to plan accordingly. In the early years, money earned from fundraising can go to pay for field trips and activities. In the last two years, it can help to fund college entrance tests and college applications. Be aware of the fundraisers that work on your campus! Observe best sellers and plan ahead! Talk to the ASB advisor if you need assistance in getting started!

The Writing Curriculum (AVID Library)

Writing promotes clear thinking. Writing promotes effective and long-term learning. Writing provides individuals and groups in a complex world with a voice and a record. The *Writing Curriculum* for AVID provides students at each grade level with writing opportunities, relevant to their learning. For each essay, students complete important steps in the writing process – prewriting, drafting, revision, editing, and self-evaluation. Each year, students in the ninth through eleventh grades have four essays to complete for AVID. For more information about writing in AVID, see the *Writing Curriculum*.