

Mar Vista Academy

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July 29, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are very excited to have your child in AVID and look forward to a productive year!

This course is a university preparation class and is designed to give students the skills necessary to succeed in high school and into the university. This class is part of a 6-year program. The goal is that your child stays in AVID for as many years as possible in middle and high school. Research shows that the longer a student stays in AVID, the better chance they have of going to a four-year university upon high school graduation. Your child should feel proud of being a part of this program. AVID is one of the programs that is going to transform the culture at the new Mar Vista Academy. The AVID program is competitive and the students **must earn the right** to keep their place in the program.

AVID stands for **Advancement via Individual Determination**, which means that the student must WANT to attend the university after high school and must also WANT to get all As and Bs each and every semester in all of their courses.

Students should be enrolled in the most rigorous classes possible. They will get help with these courses through AVID. Some things we will be working on this year include:

- Time management
- Study skills
- Note-taking skills
- Writing to learn (including many research projects)
- Technology skills
- PLAN ACT prep
- Organization
- College scholarships and financial aide (an introduction)
- 4-year plan for High School classes (to include as many advanced and AP courses as possible)
- University awareness and knowledge
- How to get As and Bs in EVERY class
- Community and School involvement

One of the most exciting things for students in AVID are the **fieldtrips** we take. Depending on fundraising levels, students will have the opportunity to see different university campuses and other areas of interest in and out of our community.

Students will also have the opportunity to listen to many guest-speakers in different professional fields and from different universities.

Materials needed for this class:

Because the purpose of AVID is to make sure students have the support they need to succeed in all their classes, these supplies are for this class and their other academic courses. If there is any problem in providing these, please let us know.

1. 2” binder for all their classes with dividers and sub-dividers for each class.
 2. Pencil pouch for Pens, pencils, highlighters, dry-erase markers, and loose paper
- *Post-its, white-out, and other supplies are optional, but great for student organization.

GRADING AVID:

The grading scale for each semester is as follows:

The grading scale for academic grades is as follows:

90-100%	A	Any grade below a “C” is unacceptable. A percent grade of less than 60% will be considered “F” (Fail) for the semester. Students will be monitored and be given the opportunity to make up any missed assignments during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
80-89%	B	
70-79%	C	
60%-69%	D	

Academic Grade:

The students will receive a grade based on which scores he or she receives the most often on the assessments for this class. Assessments are based on the objectives of the course and the skills necessary to succeed in high school and prepare for the university. Students’ grades will be calculated as follows:

Information gathering/comprehension (self-assessments & projects):	30%
Organization/Tutorials:	40%
Skill building (W riting, I nquiry, C ollaboration, R esearch/ R eading):	30%

Late work:

Late work will not be accepted unless the student was absent. Additionally, each student will receive 1 late-pass per semester. The late pass is good for up to one-week past the deadline.

Absences:

It is the student’s responsibility to make up any work he/she misses. Students will have access to Canvas and Jupiter Grades and are responsible for checking assignments and grades daily. If the student misses an in-class assessment, he/she must talk to me upon returning to school in order to make it up.

Homework: AVID is designed to help support your student in his/her other classes and therefore AVID homework will be minimal. However, you should know that it is absolutely necessary for your student to spend time reviewing his/her notes from the core subject classes, in addition to completing any homework that is given in those classes. After reviewing their notes, students are expected to complete a TRF (tutorial request form).

Citizenship Grade:

All students begin this quarter with an "A." Citizenship grades will be negatively affected by exhibiting unacceptable behavior (offensive language, rudeness, lack of respect for guidelines, classmates or teacher, refusal to participate, being off task, an unexcused absence, etc.). Students may have 3 unexcused absences in the semester before their citizenship grade will be an F. 3 Tardies = 1 absence.

I do not expect any challenges from AVID students. **If they do arise, the student will be taken out of the AVID program at the earliest possible point in the semester.**

Classroom Rules:

1. Respect yourself, the teacher, the classroom, and your classmates.
2. No food/drinks or gum in the classroom. (Water is ok)
3. Bring your supplies daily and have them out when the bell rings.
4. Makeup, games, or cell phones are prohibited at all times during class.

Consequences for having restricted items in class:

- 1st time: warning (1 warning per grading period)
- 2nd time: item is confiscated until end of class
- 3rd time: parent/guardian contacted
- 4th time: item is confiscated until parent comes to meet me at SYH.

Consequences for breaking other classroom guidelines:

1. Warning
2. 2-3 minutes of time to reflect outside
3. Lunch/After school detention
4. Parent Contact
5. Assistant Principal referral

*Sexual harassment, fighting, extreme disrespect, or stealing calls for an immediate referral to the assistant principal.

Contracts:

Students will be asked to sign a contract for AVID. If a student falls behind in any of his/her classes (below a B), he/she should attend tutoring. If the student has any type of behavior or academic problems over an extended period, they will be removed from the AVID program at semester.

Tutorials

- A critical component of the AVID program is the opportunity to participate in tutorial sessions twice a week. During the tutorial session (Tuesdays and Thursdays) students work in small groups with college tutors. In order to participate in the tutorial session, students are required to come to class with a completed TRF (tutorial request form).
- The TRF is a form that students will use to follow a process in which they identify their own knowledge and show that they have done some initial critical thinking to try to learn on their own.
- Through the TRF process, students will be able to generate a question to present during the tutorial session. TRF's are required every Tuesday and Thursday.

Don't hesitate to ask any and all questions. We are here to do anything we can to help your child learn to the best of his/her ability. Your feedback is welcome. We look forward to meeting and working with you in the future.

We have read the expectations and requirements for the class. We understand that the AVID teacher will work with parents/guardians/students to ensure academic and personal excellence. We also understand that if the student's grade begins to fall, he/she will need to attend tutoring.

(Name of Parent/Guardian) Signature Phone Number

Email

(Name of Student) Signature Email