



**AVID – Advancement via Individual Determination
East High School
Student/Parent Welcome Letter/Disclosure and Agreement 2015-2016**

Dear AVID Students and Parents,

On behalf of the East High School AVID Site Team, I would like to welcome all new and returning students to the AVID program. As you may already know, the primary goal of the AVID program is to help students achieve their goals of going to college. Many students who are admitted to the AVID program are typically bright students who might not have achieved their maximum academic potential in the past or may well be first generation college students.

The AVID elective class is a four-year elective class dedicated to providing support, academic monitoring & tutoring to each AVID student. The writing process, Socratic questioning, collaborative learning and reading are the core strategies of the program, since mastery in such strategies directly correlates with high school and college success.

What is required of an AVID student?

Each AVID student is asked to carry only ONE binder in which he or she will keep materials from all academic classes. Students keep track of assignments and are required to take DAILY notes or fill out learning logs in all core, academic classes. The notebooks are graded weekly for content and organization by AVID tutors. Led by tutors, students participate in tutorial groups in the AVID classroom. In addition, students are taught study skills, test preparation, time management, and the writing process. The student's performance in all classes is continuously monitored by the AVID teacher/coordinator.

Who are AVID Tutors, and What Do They Do?

East High is grateful to have numerous returning tutors to assist in the classroom. AVID tutors may be current/former college students or former educators who receive training in methodologies used in AVID: writing process, Socratic questioning, collaborative learning, and reading. They are in the classroom weekly to serve as models and to help students achieve success in rigorous classes. They are trained not to give students answers but rather to guide them toward answers. They may even ask permission to “shadow” students in their classes to help them learn how to take notes more effectively.

What Can Parents do to Support AVID Students?

Communication between the AVID teacher and the parent(s) is essential. At home, parents can see to it that students are doing their homework in a quiet place with few interruptions. By asking your student about his/her day, and inquiring about homework and the events of school, you will bridge what could be a great gap between his/her school life and home life. When the two are connected, successes increase.

In addition, stressing your belief that your student can succeed in high school and attend college will also motivate him/her to work harder and achieve more. Throughout the year, I will host Parent/Family Workshops, which will address topics of concern relating to student success in high school and college applications and admission.

Thank you very much for all of your support! I am looking forward to working with you throughout all of the years that your son/daughter is part of the EHS AVID program.

Sincerely,
Andrew Platt &
Cate Praggastis
AVID – Advancement via Individual Determination
East High School

AVID Agreement

Name of Student: _____

Student ID #: _____ East High Counselor: _____

AVID is a program which prepares students for four-year college eligibility.

Student Goals:

- Academic success in rigorous coursework
- Enrollment in advanced classes in high school

Student Responsibilities:

- Maintain a successful grade point average. Students cannot advance in the program if they do not maintain the following **minimum grade point average:**

- Freshman 2.5
- Sophomores 2.5
- Juniors 3.0
- Seniors 3.5

- * To be competitive for scholarships as seniors, students should strive for the highest possible grade point average.

- Maintain satisfactory citizenship and attendance in all classes.
- Maintain the AVID binder, as outlined in class, using Cornell Note-Focused Note Taking, AVID Tutorials and a Day Planner
- Complete all homework assignments and commit to at least two hours of homework every night.
- Enroll in more challenging coursework by taking at least one honors and/or AP course each school year.
- No TA or holes in schedules. AVID students who do not have a full schedule may work in the AVID elective classes as a Peer Mentor.

Student Agreement:

I agree to accept enrollment into the AVID elective class, which will offer academic support. I want to succeed, and I understand that I must take individual responsibility for my own success. I understand that by completing the work given to me in each of my classes on time and to the best of my ability, I am only increasing my chances of gaining acceptance to a college or university. I understand that in order to give fair consideration to my involvement with the program, I must commit to remaining enrolled in the AVID elective for at least one year, and that I will be allowed to remain in the program only if I meet the student responsibilities outlined above. If I do not meet the student responsibilities listed above, I realize that enrollment in AVID is voluntary, so failure to meet my accepted responsibilities may result in my being placed on AVID Probation. If I continue to not meet my responsibilities, even after being placed on probation, I will be removed from the AVID program and will then have to enroll in a different elective class.

Student Printed Name Student Signature

Date

East High School
AVID Agreement (Continued)

Support Agreement:

We agree to support the efforts of this student in meeting the goals outlined on the previous page:

Parent/Guardian Printed Name Parent/Guardian Signature

AVID Coordinator Signature AVID Counselor Signature

Important messages to the parent/guardian of the AVID student:

Publicity Release Statement:

Attached to this agreement, you will find a “Media Release” form. Throughout your son/daughter’s time in AVID, there may be several instances where photographs will be taken of the activities that take place in the AVID classroom. Since your son/daughter is a member of the AVID class, his/her picture may be included in such photographs, to be included in the site portfolio and/or in media releases that highlight our program. CCSD policy dictates that such media releases, which contain photographs in which your son/daughter may appear, require the consent of a parent/guardian. Therefore, please fill out the attached “Media Release” form and indicate whether or not you permit your son/daughter to appear in photographs that highlight the East High School AVID program.

Parental Involvement:

The EHS AVID site team realizes the importance of parental involvement in promoting the success of AVID students. As such, occasional AVID Parent/Student nights will be offered throughout the year. The involvement of parent/guardians is highly encouraged even beyond such parent/student nights. We encourage all parent/guardians to continually ask to see your son/daughter’s AVID binder so that you may gain a better perspective on his/her accomplishments in the AVID program. Furthermore, please never hesitate to contact any member of the AVID site team if you have any questions, concerns or you would like to assist in promoting the success of the program.

Parent Tips (as published in Family Life Magazine):

1. Know where your student is all the time.
2. Get to know their friends. The best way to insure success is to be surrounded by peers who want the same things, college and career.
3. Check out their Facebook page, Twitter account or other social media. This is NOT an invasion of privacy, but rather a way to show you are invested in the well-being and future of your student.
4. Listen and talk! Communication is a two-way process and it is important to talk to your student about their future, their plans, dreams and goals.
5. For East High – check PowerSchool at least once a week. PowerSchool will show you current grades and attendance.
6. Communicate with their teachers. It is fine to email teachers. You do NOT need to wait for Parent/Teacher Conference to discuss any issues or concerns.
7. Check out the East High AVID for useful information (www.easthighavid.com), as well as our FaceBook page.

7. If you do have a concern and need any assistance PLEASE!! call me 801-583-1661 x 2408 – or send me an email – andrew.platt@slcschools.org