

MVHS AVID By Grade Level:

Executive Summary

Monta Vista AVID is a four-year program for students who possess the motivation and the raw ability to succeed in high school and college, but appear to lack the consistent study habits and academic skills they need to make the most of their abilities. The goal of the program is to provide a targeted group of these already-capable students with the guidance and support they need to succeed in Monta Vista's highly competitive academic environment. As an integral part of the program, AVID students are guided through the college selection/application process, and are expected to apply to and attend a four-year college.

What follows is a short summary of the program for each grade level. Note that, as AVID works through a process of continual skill reinforcement and development, large portions of the daily classroom routine will remain stable from year to year.

Grade 9: Freshman year AVID is an introduction to the basic skills students will be practicing and developing in their AVID class over the course of the next four years: critical reading, writing, note taking, planning and organization. Students are introduced to the various processes and procedures of the AVID class, including collaborative "Tutorials" twice a week, Cornell note taking and Friday binder checks. Students also familiarize themselves with the Monta Vista environment through a variety of activities. In addition, by engaging in various career exploration activities (using Naviance amongst other tools), they will begin the journey leading ultimately to the college application process Senior year. In this year, and in each proceeding year, students will also visit at least one college campus via an AVID field trip.

Grade 10: Sophomore year AVID builds on - and reinforces - the skills and processes introduced Freshman year. Reading and writing increase in complexity, and students continue to work on deconstructing prompts and responding critically and appropriately. Students will

continue the college application journey, but the focus will shift to more of the nuts-and-bolts of preparing for the college application process. Students will also begin a multi-year process of preparing for standardized tests, including taking the PSAT in the Fall. They will also begin exploring potential colleges based on their career interests explored during Freshman year.

Grade 11: Junior year continues with the standard AVID skill-building and reinforcement. Again, reading and writing - and research - tasks become more demanding, and students' skills become more developed. The focus of the college application process shifts to even more practical aspects such as SAT prep, gathering potential references, building up a list of potential colleges, writing college essays, and, towards the end of the year, entering data into Naviance in preparation for the following Fall.

Grade 12: Again, Senior year builds on the skills students have practiced over the past four years. First semester, students work on the actual college application process, including plenty of time in the class actually filling out applications. Seniors are invited to the Fall college visit, though not the Spring trip. Second semester, students finish up the college application process, work on financial aid, and, finally, choose a college. The year concludes with a variety of practical "how-to" lessons on the day-to-day logistics of college life.

Typical Characteristics students in the AVID program include:

- First, and foremost, solid commitment to the AVID program
- Generally positive attitude/outlook
- Consistent ability to get along well with classmates
- A demonstrated desire to learn/improve/succeed
- A demonstrated desire to attend a 4-year college
- Is able to thrive in a teamwork environment
- May need tools such as study skills and/or life skills to succeed in a high school setting and beyond.