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AVID Frequently Asked Questions

What is AVID?

The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) curriculum was first developed by a teacher in Southern California. Her goal was to prepare her students for life after graduation by focusing on real life skills including writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. While every AVID Elective class looks different, these still make up the heart of the AVID curriculum.

At LWHS our AVID Electives have evolved over the last four years. We now have two sections of 'Freshman AVID' as well as an 'Advanced AVID Elective' for upper classmen. Our freshman classes challenge students with new study habits, weekly organization check ins, and group tutorials to help them answer challenging questions from their rigorous class schedules. The Advanced Elective builds on these skills while helping students begin planning for life after high school.

Where does this fit in my schedule?

AVID is designated as an elective credit on your transcript and counts towards your 24 credits needed for graduation.

What kind of work are we going to do?

Focused Notes are at the heart of the AVID Elective class. Students will learn how to regularly (10-15 minutes a day) engage with the material they are studying in their core classes to help retain information through repetition, guided interaction with the material, and meaningful questioning of the concepts.

AVID Tutorials occur twice a week and require that students pick a question from their Focused Notes to work on answering. During class students present their point of confusion to a small group of peers who use inquiry and collaboration strategies to help the presenter better understand their point of confusion.

These two tasks make up the majority of the homework in the AVID Elective classes at LW. In class we regularly complete organization and grade checks, explore challenging high school classes, research post-graduation options, and build community.

Is this a study period?

AVID is not a study period or an opportunity to complete homework for other classes. While students do work together to achieve academic success, this progress comes from adding critical thinking strategies to the "routine" many students have already developed.