



AVID Excel

**Family Information Night
Sleepy Hollow Middle School**

June 23, 2025

6:00pm-7:00pm



Welcome!

- Sleepy Hollow Middle School
- AVID Principal - Mr. Thomas Holland
- AVID Excel Teacher – Julena Chiltren
- AVID Excel District Leader – Dr. Judy Ravina



Congratulations!

**Your student was specifically selected
for this class!**

AVID Excel





What is the AVID Excel program?

- A program for English Learner students who want to go to college
- Pathway into the future high school AVID program
- Preparation for high school and college

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How was your student selected for AVID Excel?

- English language proficiency exam scores (Intermediate & early advanced levels)
- Standards-based state-adopted exam scores (ELA from 5th grade)
- Writing Scores & Samples
- Teacher/Principal Recommendation
- Small Group Conversations



What happens in the AVID Excel class?

Focus on language...

- A strong language foundation is critical to academic success
- Activities that focus around language, such as word study (Latin & Greek roots) and increasing academic vocabulary

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What happens in the AVID Excel class?

Focus on writing...

- Strong writing skills will help students master the use of language as well as prepare students for intensive writing at the high school and college level

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What happens in the AVID Excel class?

Focus on reading...

- Critical reading happens more often as the student moves through the grade levels and into college; texts get more difficult from year to year

Strong reading skills = success in school!

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What happens in the AVID Excel class?

Focus on “AVID” strategies, which are...

- Communication
- Organization
- Note-Taking
- Questioning skills
- Study Skills
- Leadership Skills



What happens in the AVID Excel class?

Scholar Groups/ Tutorials

- Two times per week, students will participate in tutoring sessions with college tutors during the AVID Excel elective

Special activities, such as...

- Field trips to universities
- In-class speakers
- Shared experiences with the AVID 7th grade elective class

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The Goal of AVID Excel

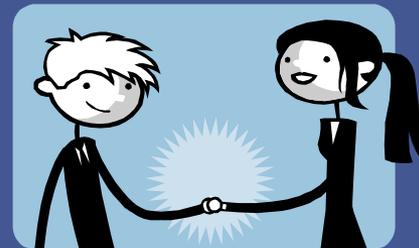
AVID Excel students will...

- Strengthen their language skills in all areas
- Enter into a traditional AVID program by the 9th grade
- Complete the college preparatory course sequence in high school, including honors-level courses
- Graduate from high school ready to enter into a 4-year university

What is a commitment?

A commitment is...

a pledge or a promise.





Commitment to AVID Excel means...

- **2 years in AVID Excel in 7th and 8th grade and then an invitation to participate in high school AVID (based on quality of work in middle school)**
- **Summer Bridge each summer between 6th and 7th grades and 7th and 8th grades**
- **A summer bridge may also be available between 8th and 9th grades**



Commitment to AVID Excel means...

- **AVID Excel students will have the AVID Excel class as their elective class for 7th & 8th grades**
- **AVID Excel students will participate in special activities, including field trips to universities & colleges and other career-based trips**
- **Students attend ALL of these experiences, not just some of them**

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What does an AVID Excel student's schedule look like in 7th grade?

(Sample Schedule!)

English/Language Arts

Math

Social Studies

Science

Physical Education

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Why AVID Excel Summer Bridge?

- A jump start on the school year
- A preview of courses before any other students begin school
- Become familiar with new school site and teachers
- Begin to create friendships with other AVID Excel students
- Participate in hands-on activities at Sleepy Hollow Middle School.



What does AVID Excel require of the family?

- Student attendance in all summer, 7th and 8th grade AVID Excel courses, and willingness to enter the AVID Program by 9th grade
- To work hard and stay focused on school
- To attend parent/family nights throughout the school year
- To support student's academic behavior at home, including increased reading
- Signed contract



Let's take a look at the contract...

The AVID Excel family agrees to...



support their student by asking about his/her homework and holding him/her accountable for homework completion at home.



promote a culture of reading at home: reading books, magazines, newspapers, or online texts (in English or home language).



ensure that their student attends all the AVID Excel courses during the summer and the 7th and 8th grade school years.



attend family/parent meetings held during the year .

Let's take a look at the contract...

The AVID Excel student agrees to...



attend all AVID Excel courses during the summer and the 7th and 8th grade school years.



work hard and have a positive attitude.



complete all schoolwork and to ask for help when needed.



come to all middle school classes prepared to participate.



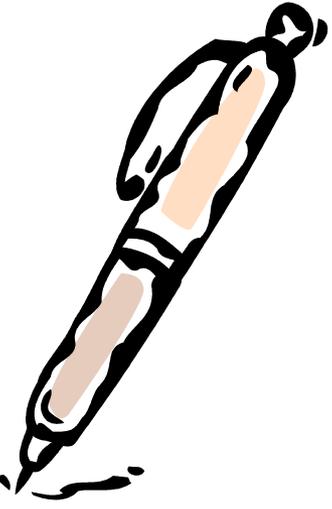
use time outside of class to prepare for college; this especially includes reading lots and lots of books!



Let's take a look at the contract...

Signatures, please!

Parent & Student Signatures



Both student and parent will sign contract,
making the 2-year commitment to the AVID Excel Program



AVID Excel Dates to Remember

_____ : AVID Excel Summer Bridge

Time and location to be determined

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