

# Ontario-Montclair

## School District

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SERRANO MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE**

Ontario-Montclair School District's (OMSD) Serrano Middle School has been selected as a National Demonstration School by AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a kindergarten through postsecondary system that changes underperforming students into confident, college-going scholars and graduates.

Serrano Middle School has undergone a rigorous validation process to ensure high levels of AVID implementation schoolwide along four key areas: Leadership, Systems, Instruction and Culture. As an AVID National Demonstration School, Serrano will be a National Model for other middle schools around the country.

Specific areas Serrano exemplifies in their implementation of AVID are:

- AVID as a schoolwide approach to college readiness
- Evidence of student achievement schoolwide
- A center of learning for AVID best practices schoolwide
- Strong and committed leadership to college readiness for all students
- Models of excellent inquiry-based AVID tutorials
- A showplace of the commitment and synergy that a strong AVID system creates for schoolwide college readiness

This outstanding accomplishment was achieved through the dedicated collaboration of all Serrano staff members who are dedicated to the future academic success of each of our students. Serrano is now not only a National School to Watch but joins a very select group of schools designated as an AVID National Demonstration School!

“We are thrilled to have Serrano Middle School received this recognition,” said OMSD Board President Elvia M. Rivas. “Serrano staff and students have worked very hard in an exciting and challenging middle school program to demonstrate strong student achievement. This is an affirmation of the fine work so many have done in the school, district and larger community.”

Mr. Gormaz, Serrano Middle School’s principal, is pleased that the school was chosen as an AVID National Demonstration School, noting the impact of the program on staff and students. “It is a tremendous honor to be selected as a Demo, and we are proud of our AVID program and our school as a whole,” said Mr. Gormaz. “The use of AVID strategies schoolwide has positively impacted students and staff, and we continue to see a more engaged and college-ready student body.”

AVID Chief Executive Officer Sandy Husk, PhD, notes the significance of attaining Demonstration site recognition. “Schools recognized as National Demonstration sites have proven their ability to successfully implement the AVID Elective course and take the strategies schoolwide to impact all students,” says Dr. Husk. “Serrano Middle School was selected as an AVID National Demonstration School because it has implemented the AVID System throughout the school and can serve as a model for new AVID sites.”

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