

# AVID Program Helps Students Succeed

As parents and community members, we all want to see our students succeed. We want them to graduate from Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, not just with a diploma, but with the skills, confidence, and a clear plan for their future. That's exactly the mission of a powerful program we're implementing here at Grant Union called AVID.

## What is AVID?

You may have heard the name, but what is it really? AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It's a nonprofit, in-school program with a single mission: to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college, career, and life. It is not a remedial program, nor is it one for just top-tier students. AVID is designed for students who have the potential and determination to succeed but could benefit from a structured support system to help them reach their goals.

The AVID system provides a continuous path of support from seventh through twelfth-grade. The path grows with the student from middle school through graduation, but the skills learned will follow them beyond the classroom.

## For Our Middle School Students (Grades 7-8):

AVID is all about building a strong foundation, helping students make the challenging leap from elementary school to the more demanding world of secondary education. For our seventh- and eighth-grade students, we are offering AVID strategies in two class periods. All seventh- and eighth-grade students have a class called Academic Success and a 5<sup>th</sup> period advisory class where they get subject-specific help or acceleration in problem-solving and study strategies. Some of the strategies we are focusing on are:

- **Learning How to Learn:** Students are clearly taught skills like note-taking, how to study for a test, and how to use a planner to manage their workload.
- **Building Confidence:** The classes provide a safe, environment where students are encouraged to ask questions and support each other.
- **Connecting Actions to Goals:** Students begin exploring their interests and learn to connect the work they do in class today to the future they want tomorrow.

## For Our High School Students (Grades 9-12):

For the high school students, the focus shifts from foundation to future. Our goal is to ensure students not only graduate but have a practical, step-by-step, individualized plan to succeed in the path they choose. The 5<sup>th</sup> period advisory class is one pathway we use to implement AVID strategies.

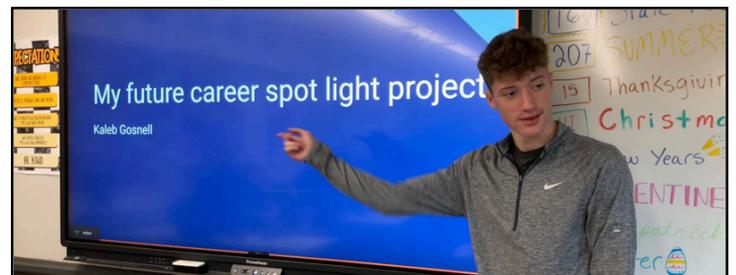
Our teachers receive training opportunities to learn best practices from AVID and the school-wide expectation is that these strategies will be implemented in our classes. AVID also supports the district's vision statement for our schools. We encourage students to:

- **Access Rigorous Courses:** All students are encouraged to take more challenging courses, like dual-credit classes, and their 5<sup>th</sup> period class provides the structured support they need to succeed in them.
- **Actively Enter College and Career Pipeline:** The program walks students and families through every step of the post-secondary process. This includes:
  - Researching colleges and careers.
  - Getting hands-on help with college and trade school applications.
  - Assistance with financial aid and scholarship applications (FAFSA).
- **Improve Life Skills:** Students practice public speaking, build resumes, conduct Socratic seminars, learn how to participate in a professional discussion, and hear from guest speakers in various career fields.

## AVID is an Investment in Our Students

By teaching determination, self-advocacy, and the specific skills needed to succeed, AVID is changing lives. It gives our students the tools to navigate challenges and the confidence to seize opportunities. We are proud to watch our students build their own futures at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School.

For more information about the AVID program at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, feel free to contact Sonna Smith, acting AVID District Director, at [sonnasmith@johndaysd.org](mailto:sonnasmith@johndaysd.org).



Sophomores Genessa Ledbetter and Kaleb Gosnell present their future career goals to their class.