

# AVID Newsletter

February 2026 Edition

## Welcome Back!

Welcome to second semester of AVID! We have a lot of new and exciting things planned for the Spring. We also have a brand new group of students joining the AVID Program.

In this newsletter, we will give monthly updates on what is happening in our AVID community, strategies students are learning, and important information about the program and its requirements!

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

**2/24: Aurora University Field Trip**  
*Please make sure permission slips are turned in ASAP*

**3/13: End of Quarter 3**  
*Probation process officially begins*

**4/14: ACT Test Day**  
*All students in AVID are required to take the exam this spring*



## January & February Recap

### NIU Field Trip

In January our AVID class went to Northern Illinois University on our first college visit of the semester. Students toured dorm rooms and the student center. They were also able to learn some of the basics of college admissions and college life, and ask university staff questions they had about college.

### AVID Student Leadership Summit

Earlier this month, two of our AVID students, Juli Martínez and Sami Muñoz, represented Dream Academy at the AVID Student Leadership Summit at Bartlett High School. The students were able to collaborate with other AVID students around the district to showcase the best of what AVID can offer and provide valuable feedback about how AVID works for them or where it can improve.

## AVID Strategy of the Month: Tutorials

This month, students have begun learning the AVID tutorial process. Twice a week, AVID students will get into groups where they will tackle the questions or issues they are having with content in their other classes. In this collaborative process, they will do their best to answer these questions so they can succeed in their core classes. In addition to solving these problems, the process requires collaboration and presentation skills that will help students well beyond their high school years.

## Students of the Month



### Juli Martínez

The past two months Juli has thrived both in AVID and in the Dream Community as a whole. She has organized events and shown leadership schoolwide, and has also taken on a leadership role in the classroom, helping new AVID students with strategies she learned last semester.



### Sami Muñoz

Sami joined our AVID community in January, and she has already made an incredible impact. She is on task and works diligently in class, and has also represented Dream at the district level at the AVID Student Leadership Summit.

## Overview of the Probation Process

The spring AVID probation process will begin officially at the start of Quarter 4. Students on probation must be in good standing by the end of the semester to remain in the AVID Elective. If a student is not fully meeting the standards of an AVID student, probation is the process to give those students additional support and resources to get them back on track.

### To avoid probation, students must:

- 1) Must have no more than one D and no failing grades in all their DHS classes.
- 2) Have an 80% or higher attendance rate or higher.
- 3) Must not have more than 5 behavior referrals in different categories.
- 4) Have no out-of-school suspensions.

There are several steps and interventions provided to help students avoid or get off of probation. However, if a student is still on probation at the end of the semester, they will be removed from the AVID Elective and lose all the privileges and opportunities AVID provides.

If you have any questions about the probation process, please contact your child's AVID elective teacher or reach out to Mr. Martinez-Ortiz or Ms. Choi.

## Dream Academy AVID Team and Contact Information

<b>Rafael Martinez-Ortiz</b> AVID Lead Administrator <a href="mailto:rafaeljosemartinez@u-46.org">rafaeljosemartinez@u-46.org</a>	<b>Alicia Choi</b> AVID Site Coordinator <a href="mailto:aliciachoi@u-46.org">aliciachoi@u-46.org</a>	<b>Sarah Kostal</b> DHS Counselor <a href="mailto:sarahkostal@u-46.org">sarahkostal@u-46.org</a>
<b>Brian Zimmerman</b> AVID Elective Teacher <a href="mailto:brianzimmerman@u-46.org">brianzimmerman@u-46.org</a>	<b>Rhiannon Hunter</b> AVID Tutor <a href="mailto:rhiannonhunter@u-46.org">rhiannonhunter@u-46.org</a>	<b>Chris King</b> RESET Teacher <a href="mailto:christinaking@u-46.org">christinaking@u-46.org</a>
<b>Parker Kresl</b> APEX/US History Teacher <a href="mailto:parkerkresl@u-46.org">parkerkresl@u-46.org</a>	<b>Mary Mangione</b> Building Principal <a href="mailto:marymangione@u-46.org">marymangione@u-46.org</a>	<b>Alyssa Realzola</b> New Beginnings MS Teacher <a href="mailto:alys sarealzola@u-46.org">alys sarealzola@u-46.org</a>
<b>Kevin Sheehan</b> New Beginnings HS Teacher <a href="mailto:kevinsheehan@u-46.org">kevinsheehan@u-46.org</a>	<b>Laura Stewart</b> TPI Resource Teacher <a href="mailto:laurastewart@u-46.org">laurastewart@u-46.org</a>	<b>Manuela Defaria Tavares</b> New Beginnings HS Teacher <a href="mailto:manueladefariatavares@u-46.org">manueladefariatavares@u-46.org</a>

