Course Overview: AVID Elective

The AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Elective course is designed to prepare students for academic success and college readiness by fostering critical thinking, organization, and collaborative skills. This course supports students in developing effective study habits, note-taking strategies, and goal-setting techniques to enhance their learning experience across all subjects.

Instruction is aligned with proven AVID methodologies, focusing on skill-building through interactive activities, writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading (WICR). Students will engage in structured tutorials, college and career exploration, and real-world application of academic strategies.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Develop Organizational Skills: planners, binders, and time management tools
- Practice Cornell Note-Taking: enhancing comprehension and retention
- Participate in Collaborative Study Groups: peer tutoring and teamwork
- Engage in Critical Thinking and Inquiry: questioning techniques and problem solving
- Explore College and Career Readiness: research, guest speakers, and campus visits
- Build Academic Writing Skills: essays, reflections, and presentations
- Set and Monitor Personal Academic Goals: self-assessment and growth tracking

Contact Information

Teacher Name: Danah Watson Email: danah.watson@midlandisd.net

Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a supportive and respectful environment that encourages growth, responsibility, and perseverance. All students are expected to contribute positively by being attentive, respectful, and prepared to learn.

Expectation 1: Be Prepared and Organized

- Bring necessary materials daily
- Use planners and binders effectively

Expectation 2: Engage Actively and Collaborate

- Participate fully in discussions and tutorials
- Support peers and contribute to group work

Expectation 3: Take Responsibility for Learning

- Complete assignments and tasks on time
- Set personal goals and reflect on progress

Positive reinforcement and consistent routines will help students meet these expectations. If challenges arise, the teacher will provide reminders and support, followed by parental contact if necessary, and further interventions as needed.

Attendance Policy & Importance

Regular attendance is essential for success in AVID. Consistent participation ensures students benefit from collaborative learning, skill development, and access to college readiness resources.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Missing classes may hinder students' progress in acquiring critical academic and organizational skills vital for current and future success. Google Classroom will be utilized throughout the school year so please refer for any absent work that needs to be completed.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Utilize organizational tools to manage assignments and time effectively
- Apply Cornell note-taking strategies across subjects
- Collaborate effectively in study groups and tutorials
- Demonstrate critical thinking and inquiry skills in academic tasks
- Develop college and career awareness through research and exploration
- Write clear, structured academic essays and reflections
- Set and assess personal academic goals for continuous improvement

Course Resources

- Chromebooks or laptops for research and assignments
- AVID binders and planners
- Access to college and career exploration materials
- Writing and note-taking supplies

Grading Policy

Grades will reflect students' mastery of AVID skills and participation, based on a variety of assessments including assignments, projects, tutorials, and class engagement.

Major assignments - 60%
Minor assignments - 40%