7th & 8th Grade AVID Syllabus

School Year: 2026–2027
Course Length: Full Year — Four 9-Week Quarters
Grade Levels: 7th & 8th Grade
Course: AVID — Advancement Via Individual Determination

Course Description

AVID is an academic elective designed to prepare students for success in rigorous coursework, high school, college, career, and life. Students will strengthen the academic and organizational habits needed to become independent, confident learners.

Instruction will center on **WICOR**:

- **W — Writing**
- **I — Inquiry**
- **C — Collaboration**
- **O — Organization**
- **R — Reading**

Throughout the year, students will use AVID strategies such as focused note-taking, tutorials, collaborative study groups, goal setting, academic reflection, organization systems, college and career exploration, and public speaking.

Grade-Level Focus

7th Grade: Building strong academic habits, organization, confidence, collaboration, and awareness of college and career opportunities.

8th Grade: Strengthening independent learning skills while preparing for the transition to high school, advanced coursework, and long-term college and career goals.

Course Goals

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

1. Maintain an effective organizational system for school.
2. Use focused note-taking strategies to process and review learning.
3. Ask higher-level questions and use inquiry to solve problems.
4. Participate effectively in AVID tutorials and collaborative learning.
5. Read and annotate academic texts strategically.

6. Write clearly for academic purposes.
7. Set, monitor, and reflect on academic and personal goals.
8. Communicate and collaborate effectively with peers.
9. Research colleges, careers, and educational pathways.
10. Develop habits that support success in high school and beyond.

Quarter 1 — Building the AVID Foundation

Weeks 1–9

Essential Question: *What habits and skills help me become a successful student?*

Major Topics

Weeks 1–2: Introduction to AVID

- What is AVID?
- Understanding WICOR
- Classroom expectations and community building
- Growth mindset
- Student strengths and areas for growth
- Personal and academic goal setting

Weeks 3–4: Organization

- Binder and backpack organization
- Planner/calendar use
- Time management
- Prioritizing assignments
- Creating effective study routines
- Grade monitoring

Weeks 5–6: Focused Note-Taking

- Purpose of note-taking
- Setting up notes
- Cornell Notes and other focused note-taking formats
- Identifying key information
- Revising and adding to notes
- Writing summaries and reflections

Weeks 7–8: Inquiry & Collaboration

- Costa's Levels of Thinking
- Writing higher-level questions
- Academic discussion
- Listening and communication skills
- Collaborative problem solving
- Introduction to Tutorial Request Forms

Week 9: Reflection & Quarter Review

- Binder/organization check
- Grade reflection
- Goal progress
- Student portfolio update
- Quarter self-assessment

Quarter 1 Major Products

- Personal academic goals
- Organized AVID binder/system
- Focused note-taking samples
- Costa's Levels questions
- Tutorial practice
- Quarter reflection

Quarter 2 — Strengthening Academic Skills

Weeks 10–18

Essential Question: *How can I use strategies to take greater control of my learning?*

Major Topics

Weeks 10–11: Reading Strategies

- Before, during, and after reading strategies
- Marking and annotating text
- Identifying main ideas and supporting details
- Academic vocabulary
- Summarizing informational text

Weeks 12–13: Writing to Learn

- Quickwrites
- Learning logs
- Academic summaries
- Evidence-based responses
- Using writing to process learning

Weeks 14–15: AVID Tutorials

- Tutorial Request Forms
- Identifying a Point of Confusion
- Developing higher-level questions
- Presenting academic problems
- Collaborative inquiry
- Reflecting on learning

Weeks 16–17: Study Skills

- Preparing for tests and quizzes
- Effective study techniques
- Using notes as study tools
- Managing long-term assignments
- Avoiding procrastination
- Academic integrity

Week 18: Semester Reflection

- Grade analysis
- Binder/organization check
- Goal evaluation
- Portfolio review
- Semester reflection

Quarter 2 Major Products

- Annotated academic reading
- Writing-to-learn samples
- Completed Tutorial Request Forms
- Study plan
- Semester grade reflection
- AVID portfolio update

Quarter 3 — College, Career & Future Readiness

Weeks 19–27

Essential Question: *How do the choices I make now connect to my future?*

Major Topics

Weeks 19–20: College Awareness

- Why consider college?
- Types of colleges and universities
- Community colleges
- Technical and career programs
- Degrees and credentials
- College vocabulary

Weeks 21–22: Career Exploration

- Interests, strengths, and values
- Career clusters
- Education and training requirements
- Career research
- Connecting careers to educational pathways

Weeks 23–24: High School Readiness

- Understanding graduation requirements
- GPA awareness
- Advanced and rigorous courses
- Extracurricular involvement
- Building positive academic habits

7th Grade Emphasis

- Exploring future opportunities
- Understanding how middle school habits prepare students for high school
- Connecting interests to possible careers

8th Grade Emphasis

- Transitioning successfully to high school
- Understanding course choices
- Four-year planning concepts

- Preparing for increased independence and responsibility

Weeks 25–26: Communication & Leadership

- Public speaking
- Professional communication
- Teamwork
- Leadership qualities
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Presentation skills

Week 27: Quarter Reflection

- Grade analysis
- Goal review
- Organization check
- Portfolio update
- College/career reflection

Quarter 3 Major Products

- College research activity
- Career research project
- High school readiness plan
- Career/college presentation
- Quarter reflection

Quarter 4 — Applying AVID Skills & Preparing for the Next Level

Weeks 28–36

Essential Question: *How can I use what I have learned to prepare for my next academic challenge?*

Major Topics

Weeks 28–29: Academic Independence

- Self-advocacy
- Asking for help appropriately
- Communicating with teachers

- Monitoring grades independently
- Managing responsibilities
- Developing perseverance

Weeks 30–31: Problem Solving & Collaboration

- Collaborative challenges
- Higher-level questioning
- Tutorials
- Socratic Seminar
- Academic conversations
- Leadership and teamwork

Weeks 32–33: College & Career Application

- Revisiting college and career goals
- Financial literacy basics
- Scholarships and financial aid awareness
- Career readiness skills
- Professional communication

Weeks 34–35: Transition & Future Planning

7th Grade

- Preparing for 8th grade
- Setting academic goals
- Identifying areas for growth
- Developing a summer learning plan

8th Grade

- Preparing for high school
- High school expectations
- Developing a freshman-year success plan
- Setting academic and extracurricular goals
- Identifying support systems

Week 36: Final Reflection & Celebration

- Final binder/organization check
- AVID portfolio completion
- Yearlong goal reflection
- Student presentations

- Celebration of growth

Quarter 4 Major Products

- Socratic Seminar
- Academic/career planning activity
- Next-year success plan
- Completed AVID portfolio
- Final reflection/presentation

Weekly AVID Routine

A typical week will include:

Day	Focus
Monday — Motivational Monday	Goal setting, motivation, growth mindset, positive habits, academic encouragement, and preparation for a successful week
Tuesday — Team-Building Tuesday	Team-building activities, collaboration, communication skills, leadership, problem-solving, and strengthening classroom community
Wednesday	WICOR academic skill / college & career readiness
Thursday	AVID Tutorial
Friday	Collaboration, team building, college/career exploration, and reflection

The weekly routine provides students with consistency while allowing flexibility for projects, school events, testing, guest speakers, college and career activities, and other campus needs.

Materials

Students should bring required materials to class each day. Materials may include:

- AVID binder or designated organizational system
- Planner or calendar
- Notebook paper

- Composition notebook or AVID journal
- Pens and pencils
- Highlighters
- School-issued device when requested
- Materials from academic classes needed for tutorials

Grading

Student grades will be based on the following categories:

Category	Weight
Participation	**30%**
Notebook	**20%**
Written Assignments	**50%**
Total	**100%**

Participation — 30%

Participation includes active involvement in class discussions, AVID tutorials, collaborative activities, Socratic Seminars, Motivational Mondays, Team-Building Tuesdays, college and career activities, and other classroom learning experiences.

Students are expected to come prepared, contribute appropriately, work cooperatively, demonstrate respect, and use class time productively.

Notebook — 20%

Students will maintain an organized AVID notebook containing class notes, focused notes, learning logs, reflections, goal-setting activities, and other required materials.

Notebook checks may occur throughout each 9-week grading period.

Written Assignments — 50%

Written assignments may include:

- AVID class activities
- Reflections
- Tutorial Request Forms
- Focused note-taking assignments
- Reading and writing activities
- College and career research

- Projects
- Goal-setting activities
- Written components of presentations
- Other assigned coursework

Student Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Come to class prepared and ready to learn.
- Participate actively in class activities.
- Maintain an organized AVID notebook.
- Participate respectfully in team-building and collaborative activities.
- Complete focused notes and written assignments.
- Participate actively in tutorials.
- Use class time productively.
- Respect classmates, staff, and differing perspectives.
- Ask questions and seek assistance when needed.
- Monitor grades and missing assignments.
- Set goals and reflect on progress.
- Demonstrate academic integrity.
- Take increasing ownership of their education.

AVID Tutorials

Tutorials are a central part of the AVID elective. Students will bring authentic questions or Points of Confusion from their academic classes and work collaboratively through the inquiry process.

Students are expected to prepare for tutorials, participate in academic discussion, ask higher-level questions, support classmates' thinking, and reflect on what they learned.

The purpose of tutorials is **not simply to receive an answer**. The goal is to develop the thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for students to arrive at solutions themselves.

Organization & Grade Monitoring

Students will regularly review their:

- Grades
- Missing assignments
- Upcoming tests and projects
- Planner/calendar
- Binder or organizational system
- Academic goals

Organization checks are intended to help students develop consistent habits and gradually become more independent.

Classroom Culture

The AVID classroom is a collaborative academic community. Students should feel comfortable asking questions, making mistakes, sharing ideas, taking academic risks, and challenging themselves.

Motivational Mondays will help students begin each week with a positive mindset, clear goals, and encouragement.

Team-Building Tuesdays will strengthen communication, collaboration, leadership, trust, problem-solving, and our classroom community.

Our classroom will emphasize:

Achievement • Respect • Responsibility • Collaboration • Perseverance • Growth

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Family Partnership

Families are encouraged to support AVID students by discussing academic goals, checking grades regularly, encouraging consistent attendance, helping students establish study routines, and discussing college and career possibilities.

Questions or concerns about student progress are always welcome.

Year-at-a-Glance

Quarter	Theme	Primary Skills
Q1	Building the AVID Foundation	Organization, goals, focused notes, WICOR, inquiry
Q2	Strengthening Academic Skills	Reading, writing, tutorials, study skills
Q3	College, Career & Future Readiness	College awareness, careers, high school readiness, leadership
Q4	Applying AVID Skills	Independence, collaboration, transition planning, reflection

Our AVID Goal

7th Grade: *Develop the habits, skills, and confidence needed to become a successful, independent student.*

8th Grade: *Apply AVID strategies independently and enter high school prepared to pursue rigorous coursework and long-term college and career goals.*

**Al topics/lessons are subject to change*