

Morris Hills Regional District



AVID's Mission

The mission of AVID is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for readiness and success in a global society



Advancement Via Individual Determination



College Preparatory Program

What is AVID?

AVID is a nationwide, four-year program that is designed to help students in the academic middle prepare for and succeed in high school and college. With individual support by trained faculty, students will pursue a challenging and rigorous curriculum while investigating careers and colleges, learning more effective study strategies, and working collaboratively with like-minded peers.

The AVID approach is based on rigor and high expectations; however, the core component of the program is the AVID Elective, which lends support to students as they tackle the school's most rigorous classes.

The AVID Elective is the centerpiece of the AVID program. Students take the Elective for credit for all four years of high school. They meet with their teachers to learn study skills and strategies, explore colleges and careers based on their interests, go on field trips to enhance their educational program, and work with college tutors to prepare for life after high school. The AVID Elective is a required component of the program.

Over the course of four years, students will work with their AVID Elective teacher and specially trained tutors to develop independent study skills, questioning techniques, and career awareness.

A Different Approach to Teaching and Learning

AVID teachers are specially trained in innovative approaches to education, such as WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading), reciprocal teaching, Socratic seminar, and Cornell note-taking.



Student Selection

Students must be admitted to the AVID program in order to participate. The most critical factor to being successful in AVID is the student's motivation and willingness to work hard in a supportive and nurturing environment.

AVID students are often in the academic middle, believing that they could take more challenging courses if they have help and support from their teachers. Above all, they want to be successful and are willing to work hard to get there.

AVID students may be, but are not required to be, the first in their family to go to college.

Application Process

Students must submit their 7th and 8th grade report card, standardized test scores, a writing sample and participate in a personal interview in order to be considered for admission. Students will be considered based on the AVID guidelines and any special circumstances.



Interested in AVID? Contact us!

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Dr. Todd Toriello, Principal
973-664-2301; ttoriello@mhrd.org

AVID Counselors

Ms. Heather McDonald, Class of 2023
Mr. Joseph Bensky, Class of 2024
Ms. Caryn Graf, Class of 2025
Mr. Nicholas Pelosi, Class of 2026

AVID Elective Teachers

Ms. Lauren Sherburne/Ms. Kara Hilla, Class of 2023
Ms. Kaitlyn Penkalski, Class of 2024
Ms. Maria Dalton, Class of 2025
Mr. Timothy Mein, Class of 2026