

AVID Elective Syllabus and Class Expectations

Mrs. Hodge: jhodge@nlmusd.org

Phone: Benton Middle School (562) 943-1553

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year. The AVID elective is the key element for the AVID program. The AVID program is aimed at directing students to a college-bound path. This will be done by teaching organizational skills, proper study habits, and developing the learning process with critical thinking skills.

What is AVID?

AVID is an acronym that stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. Essentially, the AVID class is one that prepares students for rigorous classes in middle school and high school. Its ultimate goal, however, is to prepare students for college. In middle school, some of the skills that students will learn are as follows:

- How to keep a neat, organized binder for all classes.
- How to take notes that can be used as study guides for tests.
- How to develop problem solving skills.
- How to be responsible for their own learning!

Behavioral Expectations/Classroom Rules:

Good behavior is a requirement in this classroom. We will work together as a class to help all students succeed. This means there must be a positive learning environment, free from negativity and distractions. Students will be expected to follow these classroom policies:

- Follow all school rules
- Obey directions the first time they are given
- Respect everyone and everything in the classroom at all times
- Arrive to class on time, prepared and ready to learn.
- Students are to remain seated and on task unless participating in activities or exercises that encourage otherwise.
- Please remember, the teacher excuses the students, not the bell.
- Raise your hand when you would like to speak, do not interrupt another speaker
- Be positive and always do your personal best!

Consequences

Consequences will vary depending on the severity of the infraction. Verbal warnings, campus beautification or lunch/break detention will be assigned for minor offenses. Major or continual offenses will be handled according to our schoolwide discipline policy (refer to student handbook) or a referral to the vice principal. Students may be placed on a contract for repeated improper behavior.

If a student misbehaves for a substitute teacher, an automatic consequence will be given in accordance with our schoolwide policy. Parents will **always** be notified if there is a behavior problem. Tardies will be assigned if a student is not in the classroom when the bell has rung. The tardy policy outlined in Benton's Discipline Policy will be followed. Students must remember that at Benton we ROCK!

Grading Policy Grades for **AVID** will be based on the following:

- In-Class Assignments/Projects
- Binder/Agenda Checks
- Attendance
- Cornell Notes
- Group Projects
- Journals and Quick Writes
- Presentations
- Participation
- Tutorial Requests (TRFs)

All AVID students are required to have the following supplies everyday at school:

- Good quality, 3-ring binder, 2" or 3" rings
- 8 colored tab subject dividers to separate classes
- Zipper pouch to store supplies
- Two or more pens
- Two or more pencils with erasers
- Highlighter
- Sufficient amount of lined paper
- Agenda - filled out

AVID students must be dedicated to improvement in their classes. Progress will be monitored by the students as well as the AVID teacher. All AVID students will maintain a GPA of at least a 2.0 to remain in the program. As an AVID teacher, it is my priority to assist each one of my AVID students to succeed. I am committed to assisting students with any issues regarding their classes. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

**Please also see reverse. If your child was not present at our welcome back meeting on Monday, August 26th, or did not turn one in that day you will need to sign and return the AVID contract as well as the following page.*

I have read and understand all that is expected of me as an AVID student.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

I have read and understand what is expected of my AVID child.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please read the following and initial next to your answer:

		YES	NO
1.	My child has reliable access to a computer at home		
2.	We have reliable access to the internet at home		
3.	I'd like to be a chaperone on a field trip if possible		
4.	I know of a guest speaker who would love to share information about their career with the AVID class.		

