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AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Major Concepts/Content: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success, and it is scheduled during the regular school day as a year - long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor - facilitated study groups, motivational activities, and academic survival skills. The course emphasizes rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion strategies, tutorial inquiry study groups, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, college study skills and test - taking strategies, note - taking, and research.

The AVID Elective 12th grade course is the second part in a junior/senior seminar course that focuses on writing and critical thinking expected of first - and second - year college students. In addition to the academic focus of the AVID senior seminar, we will focus on all things college: research, activities, methodologies and tasks that should be achieved during the senior year that support students as they apply to four-year universities and confirm their postsecondary plans.

And if you are here in AVID 12 you already know that AVID:

- Is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other postsecondary opportunities.
- AVID today impacts more than **2 million students in 6,400 schools in 47 states and 16 countries/territories.**
- Teaches skills and behaviors for academic success
- Provides intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships
- Creates a positive peer group for students
- Develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination

You have been working on these goals for the last three years with the final objective of putting them to use to enter and succeed in college. Now is that time.

This is it children, senior year, and the culmination of it all. But really, it is only the beginning. Right now it is impossible to know what is in store, but soon, you will choose the college you will attend. Let's make every last moment we have together in AVID worth something. Let's make a difference to ourselves and each other.

Focus Areas for AVID 12

WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, Rigor)

College and university research

Testing (SAT and ACT is optional this year)

College Readiness

College applications

Personal Statements

College-level writing

Financial Aid (FAFSA and scholarships)

Community College and Transferring

Preparation for College Life

Career Planning

Support for existing courses

Teambuilding

Celebration of you and your high school career

Required Materials

As we will be distance learning until further notice, I will provide all required materials on Schoology and my website. You are required to have these materials when we meet for our Zoom sessions.

Use of Technology in Class

For at least this semester, and until further notice, our entire course will be conducted online. Schoology is the common Learning Management System for our entire school. All work can be accessed and all assignments submitted through this platform. I will also provide information on my website for those who prefer that format.

We will conduct our class sessions on Zoom. I want to emphasize here that even though you will be at home, you are expected to:

- Show up exactly at the start of Period 4.
- Dress appropriately (no hoodies, pajamas, blankets, or props; you are in school)
- Behave as you would if we were at school.
- Participate
- Turn on your video upon entering class.
- Focus on the work at hand. Do not do work for other classes or sleep during our sessions.

Late Work

Though I do not generally allow late submissions, I will accept late work during distance learning. Students may submit work up to 24 hours after the due date IF accompanied by clear communication about what has/is occurring that prevents a timely submission. After that 24 hours, the work may be submitted **for half points**. Please communicate any problems you may have submitting the work so that alternative arrangements can be made, if appropriate.

Success in this Class

Students will impress me beyond measure and enhance their academic standing if they practice these habits of mind:

- Ask probing questions
- Demonstrate engagement
- Exhibit curiosity
- Make academic mistakes
- Challenge your beliefs
- Do *your* best! Don't compare yourself, doubt yourself, or shortchange yourself
- Think outside the box, take chances and generate ideas
- Know class protocols and never plead "not knowing."

Student Responsibility

Communication is central to understanding, and this class is no exception. I am receptive to concerns and invite feedback. But make note, it is critical that this communication comes from the student, a near-young adult. Resist the temptation to have parents do the talking. If my introduction to a student's concerns originates from a parent, I will speak to that student before I speak to that parent. However, if the student would like to include their parents in the interaction, students should cc them in their communications via email; I will follow suit. Be responsible, be grown up, advocate for yourself.

I am very much looking forward to this journey and to collaborating with my new AVID family. I think we are going to learn much and enjoy the process.

Senior Year Checklist

August/September

- Be sure that you continue a schedule with courses of rigor and do not become overcommitted (i.e., too many clubs, sports, jobs, etc.).
- Continue researching your Top 10 colleges with the purpose of narrowing down to a Top 3–5.
- Visit colleges of interest and attend college fairs.
- Determine if you are applying for an “impacted major,” which may require higher admission standards.
- Fill out college applications early! Some colleges need applications in by October 1st for certain housing and scholarship options.
- Narrow your list of potential colleges to 1–2 “stretch schools” where you might be on the lower GPA and SAT®/ACT® score average, 1–2 “strong match schools” where you meet the schools’ average GPA and SAT/ACT average, and 1 “fallback school” that you are certain you will get into.
- Examine college applications and record application deadlines in your agenda/planner.
- Determine application options (early decision, early action, or regular decision).
- Update résumé.
- Ask for an unofficial transcript.
- Compute final GPA to be submitted on applications.
- Ask select teachers/counselors/others to write letters of recommendation.
- Keep your grades up and stay in challenging courses! 75% of revoked acceptances are because seniors do poorly in classes or take too light of a load!

October

- Revise college essays for submission.
- Request fee waivers from your counselor (if applicable).
- Submit public college applications online.
- Submit applications if applying “early decision.”
- Be sure you include courses you’ve taken at a community college on your applications.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 1 scholarship for the month of October.
- Study for the final SAT/ACT test.

November/December

- Submit applications for private colleges/universities.
- Research financial aid requirements and deadlines.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships in November and December.
- Keep those grades up! Reach out for help if you feel like you are falling behind.

January

- Apply for your FAFSA pin.
- Complete the FAFSA application and worksheet.
- Make sure all test scores (SAT, ACT, AP®) have been submitted to colleges/universities where you have applied.
- Submit your FAFSA as close to January 1st as possible.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for the month of January.
- Be sure to contact colleges early if there were unexpected changes to your class schedule.

February/March

- Enroll and take English and Math Placement Tests for colleges. (Tests are generally given Feb. through May.)
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships for February and March.
- Research dorm applications and deadlines.
- At the end of March, follow up with colleges that you haven't heard from to be sure they have everything they need (transcript, SAT/ACT scores, essays, fee waiver, etc.).

April

- Study for upcoming AP exams.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for April. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- Be sure to submit your housing application to the school that you plan to attend.
- Research the placement tests that you will need to take (and pass) at the college that you plan to attend.
- Were you denied admission? Don't give up, contact the admissions office, and ask if there is an appeal process.
- Don't slack! Finish strong. A drop in grades is the number one reason that colleges revoke admissions (over 50%).

May/Early June

- Take AP exams. Be sure test scores are sent to the appropriate colleges.
- Look into taking college courses at a local community college (especially courses that cover any remediation or first-year classes, if you haven't passed).
- Be sure you send official transcripts from courses taken at the community college to the college you will attend.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for May. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- Complete AVID Senior Data.
- Sign up to be an AVID tutor next year.
- See your physician to get a meningitis shot, as you will need this to attend college.
- Write thank-you notes to teachers and your counselor for helping you through the process.
- Take a day to celebrate the fact that you graduated and are one step closer to your dreams of college.

Early Summer

- Make a decision about which college you will attend and notify the college that you will attend.
- Notify schools that you are not attending.
- Send deposits for housing (if you haven't already).
- Sign up for orientation.
- Enroll in classes (refer back to 14.12 The 4-Year College Plan).
- Be sure you have completed and passed placement tests for English and math.
- Send official score reports to college from ACT/SAT.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Talk to counselor about sending final transcript to college.
- Contact your roommate:

- Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
- Contact financial aid office at the college that you plan to attend to be sure they have everything they need:
 - Phone Number: _____
- Sign up for work study (contact career services at the campus):
 - Phone Number: _____ Website: _____
- Search campus job opportunities.
- Accept financial aid and determine if you need to accept student loans (tuition, housing, books).
- Examine your chosen school using Websites for the AVID Elective Teacher and Student Worksheet (*Preparing for College*, pp. 285–288).
- FIND OUT HOW TO LOG IN TO CAMPUS WEBSITE AND YOUR STUDENT EMAIL. A lot of important emails may come to the new college email, and you will miss it if you aren't checking.

Late Summer

- Check out campus organization, clubs, etc.
- Be sure that AP scores are sent to college and adjust first semester schedule accordingly.
- Attend orientation:
 - Date: _____ Location: _____
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Set up appointment with academic advisor.
- Get student ID card.
- BE SURE YOU SIGN INTO YOUR COLLEGE EMAIL ACCOUNT!
- Pack. (Coordinate larger items with roommate.)
- Obtain parking permits.
- Determine if professors have posted syllabi and look into purchasing books.

Early First Semester (Freshman Year of College)

- Check out tutoring opportunities.
- Study, study, study. (Remember that studying in college is not just doing homework; it is reading the book and reviewing your notes every day.)
- Visit the Financial Aid Office and find out about scholarship opportunities.
- Look into extracurricular activities.
- Go to the Tutoring Center on campus and find out about resources.
- Introduce yourself to your professor.
- Follow Study Group Plan.
- Calendar dates of homework and tests.
- Critically read the syllabi to examine grading expectations and midterm/final projects or tests.
- Attend at least one set of professor office hours during the first two weeks.
- Talk with other students from your classes and share contact info (for study groups, missed classes).
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Set up a study group with students from your class (friends from dorm).
- Check grades.
- Set up regular study hours (5.3.2b).

- Reserve study group locations.

Late First Semester (Freshman Year of College)

- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Prepare to re-apply for financial aid in January. (This is a yearly process!)
- If attending a community college: Check if the classes that you are taking will transfer to your destination four-year college in your intended major (not the community college that you are attending). Talk with an admissions counselor at the destination school to determine a transfer timeline.