



Welcome to 7th Grade AVID ⇒ *Advancement Via Individual Determination!*

Teacher Information: Mrs. Gretchen Bertram/Ponderosa Team/Room 24

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Required Materials

- 3-ring Binder with Dividers
- Pencil Pouch
- Student Planner
- Blue/Black Pen
- Pencils
- Spiral Notebook for Interactive Student Notebook (INB)
- *Etc.:* glue stick, colored pencils, fine-tip black Sharpie, highlighter

Class Description

AVID is an academic elective course that prepares you for college readiness and success. Each week, you will receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum designed by the AVID organization. You will take part in tutor-facilitated study groups and learn valuable academic skills to support your success.

WICOR

The AVID curriculum incorporates “WICOR” strategies to support your academic growth:

- **Writing** is a learning tool, a personal and public communication tool, and a record of thinking.
 - *Examples:* Cornell notes, quick writes, reflections, process writing, peer evaluation, etc.
- **Inquiry** is uncovering one’s understanding, asking critical questions and engaging in thinking, learning and discussion.
 - *Examples:* Tutorials, Socratic Seminars, Costa’s Levels of Thinking, etc.
- **Collaboration** is teamwork with shared responsibility, the sharing of ideas/information/opinions, and formal and informal discussion.
 - *Examples:* Socratic Seminars, Philosophical Chairs, Tutorials, group projects, etc.
- **Organization** is managing materials and practicing methodical study habits while planning and prioritizing school/work/social tasks. Organization is also engaging in mental preparation and goal setting while strategically and intentionally taking responsibility for one’s own learning.
 - *Examples:* AVID binder, planners, graphic organizers, focused note-taking system, etc.
- **Reading** is strategically gaining meaning, understanding and knowledge from print and other media. It is purpose-driven and interactive.
 - *Examples:* Deep reading strategies, note taking, summarizing, reciprocal teaching, etc.

A Typical Week

There are certain activities you should expect to participate in consistently throughout the year. These are designed to support you in all of your classes and help you achieve success:

1. **Tutorials** -- Tutorials are a collaborative group activity where you will follow a process to give and receive help for your core content classes. Expect to participate in Tutorials every Tuesday and Thursday.
2. **Binder Checks** -- Every week, your binder will be graded. If you do not get your binder graded on the day of binder checks, it is your responsibility to have it graded the next day.
3. **Structured Discussions** -- Structured discussions will be utilized throughout the year. You will learn to dig in to materials, listen for understanding, and express your ideas with clarity.
4. **Cornell Notes** -- You will use Cornell Notes as a tool for recording and interacting with text and materials.
5. **Critical Reading of Texts** -- You will develop the ability to read, discuss, and write about challenging texts in order to prepare you for the rigors of academic environments.

Grades

Grades in this class will be determined using a **proficiency-based grading** system.

Score	What This Means
4	Mastery that exceeds grade level standards
3.5	Above proficiency level but not yet full mastery
3	Proficiency that meets grade level standards
2.5	Approaching proficiency in grade level standards
2	Emerging proficiency
1	Not yet proficient
NE	No evidence

Category/Weighted Percent
Writing – 15%
Inquiry – 20%
Collaboration – 15%
Organization – 15%
Reading – 15%
WICOR – 20%

AVID “Meet and Greet” Meetings

AVID Meet and Greet meetings are scheduled throughout the year. You and your families will be notified of these meetings in advance. The first is scheduled for:

September 26th at 7:00 pm.

Field Trips

You will have the opportunity to take part in fun and interesting AVID field trips this school year! Mrs. Bertram will announce when and where we'll be visiting as plans take shape.

Success in AVID

The AVID elective class can be challenging and rigorous. It requires a commitment from the student and support from home to get the most out of this exceptional class. With these factors in place, the AVID class can be stimulating, engaging, and rewarding! Please communicate with Mrs. Bertram if you have any questions or concerns.

7th grade AVID is going to be awesome!