

# **AVID Syllabus**

**2011-2012**

**Mansfield High School**

**Mrs. Watson**

Congratulations on being selected for AVID! Your application indicates that you are motivated and want to succeed. AVID students are expected to use the AVID strategies in order to be successful in all of their classes. Student success is dependent on effort. There are many resources in place to help AVID students, but students must remember that motivation is a key component in their quest for a college degree. Remember....AVID stands for “Advancement Via Individual Determination.”

Parents, I look forward to working with you and your student this year. Our mutual goal is the success of your student, and to help that student reach his/her college goals. There will be challenges along the way, but there can be many rewards also. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

## **Course description:**

The AVID elective class prepares students in the academic middle for college eligibility and success. Students receive instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading strategies. AVID students must enroll in at least one Pre-AP, AP or dual credit course in addition to the AVID elective class. Tutors are provided in the AVID elective class to support student success in all courses. Students visit a college/university during the school year.

AVID 3 places a special emphasis on working with sources, critical reading and college preparedness.

AVID 4 places a special focus on assisting students with the college entrance process.

It is possible for students who are enrolled in AVID to receive their communication applications credit, which satisfies this ½ credit graduation requirement.

## **Instructor:**

Deborah Watson [deborahlwatson@misdmail.org](mailto:deborahlwatson@misdmail.org) (Note middle initial “l” must be included.) I can receive your message and respond most quickly via e-mail. You can also leave a message for me by calling MHS at 817-299-7500.

## **Grading Policy:**

Tests (including binder checks and major projects – 40%

Classwork/homework – 30%

Tutorials – 30%

***Semester exams count for 20% of semester average***

## **Course content/schedule (subject to change)**

The first six weeks for all grade levels will focus on team-building, note-taking, higher-level questioning exercises, and preparing for the October schoolwide college-preparation testing. We will also prepare students for tutorials, which will begin the week of Sept. 12. As we move closer to these events, more information will be sent to you via e-mail or online.

Throughout the year, AVID students will receive tutorials twice a week for 45 minutes. Students will bring questions generated from their core classes, and will work in collaborative groups to help each other find answers to their questions. Those groups will be facilitated by adult tutors. The rest of those class periods will be spent on writing, inquiry, collaboration and reading exercises. Binders will be checked once a week for neatness and completeness. Guest speakers, philosophical chairs, Socratic seminars and team-building exercises will be scheduled regularly.

## **Support Services**

Tutoring is available before and after school for all core classes and foreign language classes. Students should know the tutoring times for their teachers. A tutoring log will be provided so they can document attendance at tutoring sessions. **Tutoring is mandatory for any AVID student whose grade in a class falls below 75.**

## **Class Participation**

Class participation is mandatory. Much of the work done in the AVID classroom is collaborative in nature. All students are expected to stay focused on the work assigned, and to contribute in a positive and consistent manner, equal to others in the group. Participation grades may be taken during lectures, tutorials and motivational activities.

## **Attendance and Tardies**

See the student handbook for district attendance guidelines. Students who are tardy to class will not be admitted without a tardy pass. AVID students are expected to be on time, and ready to work in ALL classes. Teachers will notify the AVID teacher if these expectations are not met, which may result in a parent conference and possible probationary status in the AVID program.

## **Missing/late work and exams**

Late work will not be accepted. If work is not turned in due to an excused absence, it is due the day the student returns to class. Assignments missed due to an excused absence will be due in accordance with MISD policies (the student will have the same number of class days to complete the work as the number of class days missed.)

If a student misses an exam due to an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to meet with the teacher and arrange a time to make up the exam. If a student fails an exam, he/she will be allowed to retake the exam for a maximum grade of 70. Retakes must be completed within a week

of the exam. Binder checks are exam grades. Students who do not have their binders on binder check days will be given a grade of zero. If that student brings the binder in during **the next class period**, he/she will be allowed to have the binder checked for a maximum grade of 70. It is the student's responsibility to ask for the binder check.

### **Behavior**

Behavior expectations for AVID students are high in all classes. You are expected to be role models on campus, and should always show respect for the learning environment. Excessive disciplinary issues may result in probation, and/or expulsion from the AVID program.

### **Academic dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will result in disciplinary and/or grade consequences. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, submitting the work of another person, submitting work previously used, or copying the work of another person with or without permission. For more details on MISD's policies and procedures on academic dishonesty, please refer to the Student Handbook.

### **Community service/Volunteer Opportunities**

AVID students are encouraged to participate in community service activities. This enhances their AVID experience, and provides additional college application credentials. Students will keep track of their community service hours on a community service log kept in the classroom.