AVID Frequently Asked Questions

What is AVID?
AVID stand for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a college readiness system. It is designed to increase school wide performance and ultimately help close the achievement gap by preparing students with the skills, tools, and strategies necessary to achieve in advanced classes.

Who is the AVID student?
The AVID student has the desire to go to college and is willing to work hard to get there. The AVID student has the capability of completing rigorous coursework but may be falling short of his or her potential. These students need the support of the AVID program to help them become successful learners capable of reaching their goals. Students in the AVID program are generally underrepresented in colleges and universities.

How will the AVID student be supported?
Students will be enrolled in the AVID elective class. This is a credit-bearing class that will allow for specific time devoted to obtaining the skills and strategies necessary to succeed in rigorous classes. The class includes tutorials, motivational lessons, organizational skills, and teaching the components of the WICOR method and Cornell Notes. The AVID Elective class is not a study hall.

How long will my child be in the AVID system?
The AVID system and approach are continuous. The student will apply to be a part of the system each year. Each student and family member signs a contract annually.

Columbia Public Schools
Will AVID help my student gain acceptance into college?
Any student who participates in the AVID system and works diligently will have the strategies and tools necessary not only to be accepted into college but to be successful in college.

What is the application process for admittance into AVID?
Enrollment into the AVID class is done through an annual application process. This enrollment process will begin around mid-school year. Announcements will be shared via daily student announcements and/or the Columbia Public Schools website and individual school websites. Applications will be available through the school’s AVID site coordinator and guidance office. A complete application and written interview are followed by an oral interview. Those are scheduled by the school’s AVID site coordinator and/or site team. Each school’s site coordinator is listed on the AVID web page for Columbia Public Schools. Students are selected to be a part of the AVID system for their specific school. Acceptance into AVID is school specific.

If my student is not selected to participate in AVID, will my student not receive support in his or her advanced classes?
No, AVID is one of many support systems put in place to help students who want to succeed in rigorous classes. Students can learn more about these opportunities by speaking with their guidance counselor or advisory teacher.