



Email: tara.laroy@knoxschools.org

Course Description: AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is offered as an elective course that prepares students for entrance into four-year colleges. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, study skills and test taking, note-taking, and research. These skills are all supported through WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) strategies used throughout the AVID elective, as well as their core curriculum.

Knox County Curriculum Standards: Please refer to the Knox County AVID Curriculum chrome-

extension://ecnphlgnajanjnkcmdbpancdjoidceilk/content/web/viewer.html?file=https%3A%2F%2Fmy.avid.org%2Ffiles%2F6454.pdf

Skills Covered: Students will learn and apply AVID skills, such as:

- Note-taking
- Organization
- Time management
- Goal setting
- Oral communication through presentations, Socratic Seminars, and a public speaking unit
- Writing to learn activities
- Multi-Grade Level Portfolio

In the sophomore year, students will refine the AVID strategies to meet their independent needs and learning styles. Students will continue to refine and adjust their academic learning plans and goals, increasing awareness of their actions and behaviors. Students will expand their writing portfolios to help them meet the rigor of AP classes, participate in collaborative discussion while also developing leadership skills in those settings. Lastly, students will begin to narrow down their college and careers of interest, based on personal interests and goals.

Objectives of the AVID elective course:

1. Students will take courses that meet four year college entrance requirements.
2. Students will participate in tutorials for academic courses.
3. Students will learn and apply AVID skills, including note-taking, organization, time management, and goal setting.
4. Students will improve their oral communication skills through a variety of activities, including presentation and Socratic Seminar.
5. Students will participate in writing to learn activities, including note-taking, learning logs, and essay writing.



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6. Students will learn to evaluate their own and other's writing, using the rubrics and scoring guides modeled after college writing courses.
7. Students will prepare for college entrance examinations, including the SAT®, SAT® Subject, and ACT.
8. Students will complete a multi-grade level portfolio of their work in AVID.
9. Students will plan, participate in, and reflect upon a minimum of 75 hours of community service by the time they graduate.
10. Students will visit at least two colleges or universities during each academic year.

Fee: There is a \$5 fee for this course.

AVID Supply List:

- Pencil Pouch
- (2) Blue or Black pens
- Pencils
- Small Pencil Sharpener
- Post-It Notes (3 pads) Ms. LaRoy will keep 2 and distribute as needed
- 2 highlighters
- Ruler – one that will snap into binder
- Subject dividers
- Notebook paper for binder

Movies: Throughout the course of study, students may view films, film clips, or educational programming directly correlated to their study if time permits. All audio-visuals will comply with Knox County guideline and could include *Apollo 13*, *Patch Adams*, *Pay it Forward*, *Failsafe*, *Remember the Titans*, *Dead Poets Society*, *October Sky*, *Finding Forrester*, *Lean on Me*, and *Drumline*. The clips from these movies will focus on specific skills needed for success in AVID, school, and life such as: problem solving, not conforming to norms, community service, teamwork, discipline, passion, accomplishing a dream, etc

Alternative Assignments/Activities: If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, the child's name the specific



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activity/materials in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection.

Assessments

Skills Assessment: AVID students will be assessed using a variety of performance-based assessments. They will be judged not only on the AVID “basics” such as a well-organized notebook, participation in tutorials, and note-taking, but also according to their performance on timed writings, practice college entrance tests, participation in Socratic Seminars, and other activities. Students are required to develop and present the Multi-Grade Level Portfolio at the end of each year, representing their work in the AVID program.

Class Participation: This class is DEPENDENT on class participation. It is imperative that you start to take ownership of your own education not only for high school but for college and beyond. This class is a support for your other classes and that means YOU HAVE TO PARTICIPATE!!!!

Knox County Grading Scale

A 100-93% **B** 92-85% **C** 84-75% **D** 74-70% **F** 69% and lower

Grades for class:

End of Course Exam – 25%

Tutorials – 25%

AVID Binder – 25%

Class work – 20%

AVID projects – 5%

Makeup Work: Make up work is your responsibility. It is YOUR responsibility to turn in missed work!!! If there are assignments (TESTS included) NOT turned in at the end of every 3 week grading period, they turn into zeros. I want to emphasize that it is a college-level class therefore YOU are responsible for making arrangements to get your missing work and/or notes. If you are having trouble, PLEASE do not hesitate to speak with me. I am here to support you anyway possible.

Make-up Policy and Student Grading

Students must request make-up assignments within three (3) days after returning from an absence. Work must be completed within a reasonable, predetermined amount of time. It is up to the teacher to establish guidelines for a reasonable amount of time to make up any missed work. For any absence period of five days or over, work may be requested through the Guidance Office. Failure on the part of the student to initiate a request for make-up work within three days may result in lost credit opportunity for the assignments missed.



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Student Expectations

Attendance: I understand that absences happen, and I also understand that history is probably NOT your favorite thing to talk and read about. However, if you do not have regular attendance, it makes it more difficult on you to “catch up.” DO NOT put yourself in a position of playing catch up...this IS a REQUIRED course to graduate. If you miss more than 15 minutes of any class, you are considered ABSENT!!! This includes if you are checked out early or you leave my room for any reason. You will know at least a week in advance when we will have a test. If you miss class the day before a test, you WILL STILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE TEST!!!

Classroom Rules / Procedures:

- 4 School and Class Expectations:
 - Be Safe.
 - Be Ready.
 - Be Responsible.
 - Be Respectful.
- **Behavior** – This is an AVID elective class, behavior should not be an issue plain and simple.
- **Participation** – we will be discussing a variety of issues and inevitably we will have differing opinions. At the end of the day, you MUST RESPECT everyone’s opinions and always remember IT IS OK TO AGREE TO DISAGREE.
- **Music** – Students will not be allowed to listen to music in any class this year. Appropriate music will be played from my computer during times that students are working.
- **Food** – Food will be allowed in my classroom as long as it does not become a distraction in the learning environment. Meaning, if you want to share then do so BEFORE class starts. Also, everyone is expected to clean up after themselves, do not leave trash around your desk area or the entire class will lose the privilege.
- **Cell Phones** – Cell phones can be put in the boxes on the desk with screen down, as we might utilize them for polleverywhere.com. Otherwise, if students have their cell phone out it will be sent to the cell phone jail in the back of the classroom.

Incentives:

- Weekly Drawings: Throughout each week, the class as a whole will compete with the teacher to earn chances for weekly drawings for incentives. The skeleton structure for this competition is as follows:
 - Teacher points can be awarded, but not limited to the following: students not meeting behavioral expectations (too long on transitions), students tardy to class, etc.
 - Student points can be awarded, but not limited to the following: perfect attendance (which includes NO tardies), all homework being turned in on time, class test or quiz average above 80, etc.
 - If students have more points than the teacher at the end of every week, then teacher will randomize a drawing for a variety of prizes such as candy, homework passes, etc.



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Honor Code/Plagiarism Policy:

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:

“Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.”

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision. Plagiarism in college will result in being kicked out of the institution, so let’s get in the habit of doing our own work now.

Teacher Expectations

Communication: The best way to reach me is by email, tara.laroy@knoxschools.org. I check it several times a day and can respond quickly. You may also call the school phone (594-3792) and leave a message for me. The best way to communicate with me is via email.

Aspen Parent Gradebook Access:

The most effective way to communicate with students and parents is through the online gradebook. In order to give timely feedback, I will update grades at least once a week. Students and parents should be checking gradebook on a regular basis. Please do not wait until the end of a grading period to check a student’s grade. If there is a question or discrepancy, please do not hesitate to contact me immediately. I encourage you to access this regularly. If you do not know your username and/or password, please contact the school at (865) 594-3792.

Canvas:

Canvas is a great tool provided to us by the Knox County School System. We will be using Canvas throughout the year, so students **must have access to it and know their log-in information daily**. It is another great way of communication. Please access the Canvas page for this class and visit it often. This page contains due dates, copies of most assignments, and more.

Tutoring & Extra Help: I am available to help after school, usually until 5:00. I will leave school earlier if you are not in my room after-school. If you want or need to stay after-school, let me know so I can make sure that I stay in the building.

-LaRoy



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Tentative Schedule

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT TEACHER'S DISCRETION BUT ALL CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED APPROPRIATELY.

Weeks 1 – 9:

- Goal Setting, AVID Inquiry strategies, Pre-ACT test preparations

Weeks 10 – 18:

- Perfect Colleges, College Level Text analysis

Weeks 19-27:

- Public Speaking Unit

Weeks 28-36

- College and Career Research