



# The AVID Advisor

October-November  
2006

## Family Workshop for November set

*Why does my son have to carry around just a single binder? How do you expect her to take a set of notes in all classes? He is already making good grades, so why does he have to do all this extra work? How can I help my daughter develop the skills she is going to need for the college path?* Some or all of these questions may sound familiar. If so, you can find answers for these and other questions about AVID at our first Family Workshop on **7 November 06**.

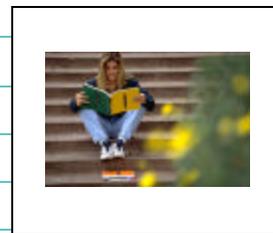
We are experimenting with a different schedule this time in hopes of enabling more parents to attend based on what best fits their schedules. On

**Tuesday, 7 November**, we will be holding the workshop in **two one-hour sessions in my classroom (147) at 5 and 6 p.m.**, making it possible for you to choose your time to attend. It is also our hope that smaller groups will allow for more interaction for all attendees. As in the September Information Meeting, our *AVID students should accompany their parents with their binders.* They are going to become your “tutors.”

Another feature we are adding this time is to provide **childcare** for your younger children if needed. Your children should come with a favorite toy or book and needed

supplies. AVID students with baby-sitting Certificates will be in charge of the little ones in the room right next door to our workshop.

We hope you will join us at our first **AVID Parent**



Building skills for the future.

**Workshop** of the year! In this workshop, your student will be teaching you the “in’s and out’s” of taking Cornell notes and how they are such powerful tools for learning.

### Parent Workshops

7 November 06

17:00 and 18:00 hrs

### Binder Checks

8 November

22 November

### vNo School

9-10 November

23-24 November

## Last binder checks for the quarter a success for some!

Congratulations to these students for achieving grades of A or A+ on their last binder checks. May they keep up the great work!

*Dennis Hornsby, Amber Luepke, Rachel McGettrick, Tamaura Bowman, Taylor Cave, Steven Dunham, Blake*

*Frazier, Chris Linnbaum, Michael Osmonovich, and Yuko Takano.*

Those students with “A’s” received AVID \$\$’s and their own personal yo-yos in acknowledgement of their hard work and NOT YO-YO’ING with their

binder grades.

The next **AVID binder check** will be on **8 November 06**. **Four sets of notes are required for all academic and AVID classes.**

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## Newest tutor added to the AVID team

Lisa Quadros, born and raised in Rhode Island, is the latest newcomer to the AVID lineup. Lisa earned her Bachelors of Science degree at the University of R.I.

While there, Lisa was part of SMILE (Science and Math Investigative Learning Experience) planning and directing weekend environmental experiments with 4th and 5th graders.

Her obvious love of and interest in animals is evidenced by her internship at the Kansas City Zoo. Lisa

has not only worked with such exotic animals as hippos, crocs, Aldabra tortoises, rhinos, and giraffes, but also with domesticated sheep, cows, horses, and goats.

As an Air Force wife, Lisa has put her degree to good use at White-man AFB as a teacher assistant and substitute teacher. At the same time she was part of an after-school math help group. She has now brought her learning, experience and desire to work with young people to LMS as a substitute teacher and to AVID as our newest tutor.



Welcome,  
Lisa!

## Study verification required each week

Let's face it, our kids are pretty smart. You know it, and we know it. They may even be able to get good grades with little or no effort. Maybe they can even skip turning in an assignment here or there.

However, we must remember that our students have the goal of going on to a college or university and need to have certain skills and strategies in place for maximum success.

As these college-bound students head into high school and enroll in the rigorous courses university's are looking for (*I.e. Geometry, Spanish III, Honors English/History, Biology, etc.*), They will also be involved in sports and other activities. By the time they arrive in college, they must be ready to make the best use of their time.

Many college freshmen fail just because they don't have a time organizational strategy in place. This is the rationale for requiring our students to set up a regular time

and place for study. Students are to study a minimum of two hours five times a week. To meet this requirement, students only have to study one of the days between Friday and Sunday.

It is a good idea for students to list things that are of highest priority for them that week/day. These may range from "Study for history test" to "Pick up photos" to "Clean my room." They then should assign a priority to the item and check it off when it is completed. Parents can help by looking to see that the assignments being written down in the planner, is being completed. Students and parents alike can see at a glance what is due for the week. This should aid greatly in planning efficient use of time and for scheduling activities.

**NOTE:** Homework should be begun the day it is assigned. This ensures that there is time to get help if needed, as well as preclud-

ing other activities "getting in the way."

**Study Verification Sheets** are recorded from *Monday through Sunday* of each week. Students are to record daily the subjects studied and how long was spent in total for that day.

These forms are **due the first day of the week** that AVID meets **with parent signatures**. The new week always begins on Monday. **You, the parent can help by working with your student to devise a way to get the form signed by Sunday night.** Students in class have shared some rather interesting ways to accomplish this. Have your child share some of these with you.

"Homework should be begun the day it is assigned."

## Students begin AVID tutorials with Bloom and Costa

Bloom? Costa? Are we talking plants or places? Neither.

A cornerstone of the AVID program is the tutorial. AVID students need the support of their tutorials to not only to achieve success in their high school and other academic classes, but also to master skills needed for college. Our tutors are college graduates trained in effective tutorial group strategies and the Socratic Seminar method of learning.

AVID students have the capability to excel but often must be pushed to realize their potential. Often they

have the desire and motivation but lack the skills to make them reality.

AVID tutorials uses the Socratic method of teaching involving skilled questioning enabling students to seek deeper answers rather than just filling their heads with the “right

answers.” It fosters active learning as participants explore and evaluate ideas, issues, and values.

Master educators and psychologists, B.S. Bloom and Art Costa pioneered ways to structure the various levels of thinking. Using Bloom’s Taxonomy and Costa’s Levels of Intellect, AVID students are learning to create their own higher-level questions for their subject area courses in preparation for participation in the tutorials facilitated by our tutors. See the article “Research highlights AVID methodologies” on the last page to understand how necessary acquisition of these inquiry skills are.



7th Grade Avid students learning how to write tutorial questions.



### Recommended website: College for my

Go to:

It takes a family to succeed — AVID is part of yours.

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/college/prep/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

If you haven’t been to the Department of Education site recently, be sure to check this out and bookmark it for later. This section is extremely valuable for parents in particular.

It includes *Editor’s Picks* on topics of interest such “Preparing Your Child for College and Thinking About College” as well as sidebar links to financial aid and a college preparation checklist. Let *Uncle Sam* help you out!

## Real World brought to 8th grade PSAT takers

After weeks of preparation, our 8th grade AVID students were joined by the TAG class in taking the PSAT, a first step in college entrance, on 18 October 06.

In December when the scores are returned, there will be a Parent Workshop featuring our AVID counselor, Mr. Hersey, interpreting the results and how best the information can be used in further preparation for college admission.

As an added treat, after three hours of testing, AVID sponsored a “Portfolio-Building Workshop” for

both groups. Juanita Harvin, the developer of the award-winning “Real World Seminars” came from Heidelberg, Germany, to provide binders, dividers, handouts, and valuable information on portfolios. Our students will be assembling their collection throughout the year.

Mrs. Harvin was mesmerizing as she demonstrated the value of having all the pertinent materials/information gathered in one format. She further explained the how’s and why’s of researching potential colleges and careers.

Of great interest to parents will be the information on financing college. Visit her site at [www.heid-dso.eu.dodea.edu/RealWorld/realworld.htm](http://www.heid-dso.eu.dodea.edu/RealWorld/realworld.htm)



8th Grade Avid students building their Real World Portfolio.



### LMS Parent-Student Newsletter

Lakenheath Middle School  
RAF Feltwell, U.K.



#### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Curious things, habits. People themselves never knew they had them."

Agatha Christie

### FAQ'S About the Student Planner

**QUESTION:** *What should the parent be looking for in the student assignment book (or planner)?*

**ANSWER:** Students are being trained and directed to write assignments *on the day they are assigned as well as placing long-term assignments and projects on the monthly calendars.*

When sitting down for the *mandatory minimum 2-hour study period*, the student needs to begin by checking the monthly as well as the planner entries for the day, and even page back to previous week. Each day the planner has room for at least four classes, which is what grades 6-8 have on the block schedule. Everyday students should write the *assigned work in the appropriate blocks*. For a class with **no assignments, the student must write down what was done/learned** in that class. *i.e. Band – first stanza of "Am. The Beautiful: P.E. – 2-mi. run-16 min.* This will come in handy during study time!

Also, the planner keeps you abreast of what is going on in school. Remember that the planner is the first line of communication between you and the school. Check it regularly and send messages to teachers with it.

## Research highlights AVID methodologies

Recent research again confirms the methodologies and strategies emphasized in the AVID curriculum with the publication of David Conley's book, *College Knowledge*, and his research project on the core competencies needed for success in college. It is important because he finds, through analysis of actual freshman college work and assignments, that mastery of academic content is far less important for success in college than development of intellectual competencies such as: **writing, reasoning, analytic**

**thinking, and problem-solving.**

Corroborating Conley's study are recent interviews with college teachers that identify **lack of students' skills**—not lack of content knowledge, as the most common source of deficiency in achievement: **College professors' views of the skills students lack:**  
**-70% say students do not comprehend complex reading materials**  
**-66% say students cannot think analytically**  
**-65% say students lack ap-**

**propriate work and study habits**

**-62% say students write poorly**  
**-59% say students don't know how to do research**  
**-55% say students can't apply what they've learned to solve problems**

These competencies are the foundation of the AVID Program.

For more information:  
2005 Achieve Inc. Study  
[http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/pollreport/\\$file/pollreport.pdf](http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/pollreport/$file/pollreport.pdf)

