

# The AVID Advisor

20 September 2006

## Welcome to AVID

Volume 1, Issue 1

I would like to welcome you to the AVID family. Yes, that's right! AVID is a big family made up of over 40,000 students worldwide. But what really makes it a family is that we all – students, teacher, tutors, and parents – look out for each other. I will be like an extra parent doing some of what you do – encouraging, coaxing, nagging, modeling appropriate behaviors, etc.; while the tutors are like older sisters or aunts who have been to college and know what is ahead for our students.

Of course, our students are like siblings who have a vested interest in seeing that each succeeds academically and socially.

You, as the “real” parents are integral to making it all work with your support, caring, and involvement.

The *forty-two parents* along with thirty-two AVID students able to attend our *Parent Information Meeting* on Thursday, 14 September 06, took the first step toward blending into our large family.

We will have our first **AVID Parent Workshop** in either October or November. 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 to learning and why the single binder is so necessary.



**Building bridges for dreams to span the way to the future.**

### Special points of interest:

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## Students shine in first binder checks

In their first binder check of the year, 100% of the eighth graders made “A’s!” The seventh graders had a healthy 75% with “A’s.” Congratulations!

In this first binder check, the binders were assessed

by peer graders as the tutors and Ms. Nelson went step-by-step through the procedures. This first time, the emphasis was on organization, the daily planner, and AVID notes.

The AVID binder is a re-

quirement for every AVID student. It becomes one of the tools for student academic success. As such, it counts **35%** of their final grade. Binder checks are made about every 8–10 days of class days. The next one is **Friday, 22 September**.

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## LMS AVID classes get started



2006-07 Seventh Grade AVID Class



2006-07 Eighth Grade AVID Class

## Congress celebrates AVID

In November 2005, the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress passed House Resolution 576 celebrating 25 years of success of the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program.

AVID has provided academic and motivational support that has enabled more than 95 percent of over 257,000 students to go on to college. Since its inception in a single San Diego classroom in 1986, AVID has grown to more than 2,200

middle and high schools in 36 states and Department of Defense schools in 15 countries.

Students in AVID are required to take a rigorous, college preparatory curriculum including advanced level courses with academic coaching provided by trained tutors. The program also provides SAT/ACT preparation, college information and financial aid assistance, college visits, and motivational experiences.

The success of the program is reflected in the 89 percent of AVID students who are fully eligible and do go on to enroll for their sophomore year compared to a national average of 50 percent. AVID students and their teachers were congratulated on increasing college eligibility and attendance.

“... More than 95 percent of over 257,00 [AVID] students go on to college.”

## Big dollars for DoDDS 2006 AVID Seniors

2006 was a very good year for AVID seniors. The **110** AVID seniors earned **over \$550,000** in scholarships! **Eighty-four per cent** were accepted by and plan to attend either a four-year (72%) or two-year (12%) college. The total dollar amount awarded in scholarships doubled from 2005. Heidelberg High had a whopping 33 AVID seniors who netted over

\$400,000 in scholarships and grants. Kudos to all the AVID students, parents, teachers, and coordinators for all their accomplishments.



“\$550,000 in scholarships granted to AVID seniors!”

## Meet this year's AVID tutors

You may recognize **Josie Mauze**, since she was an AVID tutor and substitute teacher for the majority of last year. Josie received her BA in Art History and 7-12 education licensure in Art from Colorado College, located in Colorado Springs. She taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade art for year in Albuquerque, NM before shipping overseas with her husband. Josie is currently working on a master's degree in education and only has one more year with us here at LMS before she heads back to the states. She is also an 'avid' skier and traveler.

**Michelle Ritterbush**, our newest

AVID tutor was raised in Sheridan, Wyoming, where she attended school from kindergarten through community college. Michelle went on to the University of Wyoming to finish a dual teaching degree in both special and regular education. Although Michelle married towards the end of her college career, she went on to complete her degree with her husband's encouragement. She has loved being a stay-at-home-mom for nearly all of her marriage. Most of Michelle's work outside the home has been in education such as being a substitute teacher, Sunday school teacher, and a home-school teacher for two

years when she had a child too ill to go to school. Michelle loves music, art, and writing; and hopes to one day be a published author.

*Josie Mauze*



*Michelle Ritterbush*



## Where in the world are AVID schools?

Many of you have asked me, from time to time, where are those AVID programs in **36 states** and **15 countries**. Inquiring minds want to know! Especially when a family is PCS'ing back to the US or another DoDEA school, and they want to keep their child in the AVID program. I finally got a reliable answer for you from Linda Powell-McMillan the DoDEA liaison at the AVID Center.

To find which schools have an AVID program as well as their current level of certification do the following:

- 1-Go to <http://www.avidonline.org> and go to **MYAVID**. You will need your email address and password given to you by the AVID Center.
- 2-Look at the top of the page for **SEARCH** by **ORGANIZATION**
- 3-Type in the state

4-Organization type: **AVID School**

5-School type: **Middle School and/or High School**

6-Click the **SEARCH** button. A list of schools will be created.

**“... AVID schools in 36 states and 15 countries.”**

## Family dinners make a difference

### **Make a date for dinner.**

Good food, great conversations and loads of laughs—that's what family dinners are made of. If busy schedules are making it hard for your family to pencil in regular family meals, take a “time out” to consider all the benefits of gathering around the dinner table because family dinners are about more than just

sharing a meal.

### **Did you know that eating dinner frequently with your children reduces their risk of substance abuse?**

Research by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA)\* at Columbia University consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to

smoke, drink, or use drugs. The conversations that go hand-in-hand with dinner will help you learn more about yours children's lives and better understand the challenges they face.

Visit [www.CASAFamilyDay.org](http://www.CASAFamilyDay.org)





## LMS Parent-Student Newsletter

Lakenheath Middle School  
RAF Feltwell, U.K.  
Compiled by Meryl Nelson



Parents and students  
can log into the above  
web site.

### FAQ: About Course Selection

**QUESTION:** Why do AVID students have to agree to a prescribed set of courses in middle and high school?

**ANSWER:** The number one MOST important thing that colleges look at on applications is the academic courses taken. The more "rigor" on the transcript, the greater chance the student has of being admitted. Colleges want to select students who have a good chance of staying and succeeding at their schools. Thus, success in challenging courses throughout middle and high school shows them that the student has done more to prepare. A study by Clifford Adelman for the US Department of Education found that the number one predictor of earning a bachelor's degree was the caliber of academic courses taken in high school.

And, frankly, college admissions are getting more and more competitive. Honors and AP courses along with upper level science, math, and foreign language courses are the ones they look for. Fine arts and computer courses are also good choices. College admissions offices actually refigure student grade point averages based only on the courses they consider rigorous. By the way, taking just one Advanced Placement (AP) course in high school doubles a student's chances of earning a bachelor's degree within five years. Remember, many start, few finish.

## PSAT Preparation

AVID 8th grade students are preparing to take the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) on Wednesday, **October 18, 2006**. The cost of the test is \$12.00.

The PSAT is an excellent "practice" for the SAT, which is the primary college entrance examination. It has the same types of questions but is a little shorter in length. There are three sections: verbal reasoning, writing skills, and mathematics.

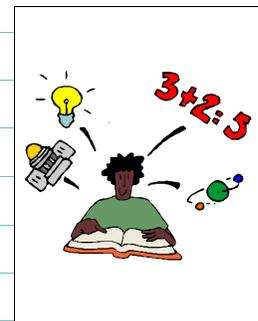
Scores on the PSAT are returned *only* to the school and the students. Our students are being cautioned that their scores will be compared with tenth grade students. That means even a 1% on a section is better than some of the sophomores

who take the test. Although younger students will most likely get lower scores, the advantages earned from actually taking the PSAT far outweigh that. Students understand that "practice makes perfect," and that every year they take the test, their scores will go up. They also know that becoming familiar with the test format and continuing to take rigorous courses will also boost their scores every year. Also, students can measure their progress with the average SAT scores of the colleges they desire to enter.

In AVID class, students are learning about each section of the PSAT, acquiring helpful hints for each, and practicing sample items. They also learn about how the

PSAT is scored and when it is okay to guess at an answer.

For more information and practice for the test, visit the PSAT link on this site: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) [<http://www.collegeboard.com/>](http://www.collegeboard.com/) **and register!**



PSAT Prep