



# Pikesville High School AVID



## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017-2018

### IN THIS ISSUE

Dear AVID Family,

Greetings I am honored to work with you in our important mission of closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. The theme for BCPS AVID this school year is “You Can Do It, We Can Help!” This familiar tagline will guide much of our work this year, and I think it pertinent for me to share what it means to me.

When customers go to home improvement stores they bring with them various project ideas and skill levels, and it is the job of the workers to help customers on their missions. These workers provide knowledge about resources, help troubleshoot before and during the course of a project, exercise patience with novices, and build trusting relationships and brand loyalty.

Just like the customer, our students come to us from a variety of backgrounds, skill levels, and personalities but each is worthy of the time, patience, and effort it takes to cultivate a long-lasting relationship. It is our job to make sure that our students become college-ready and fulfill the mission of the AVID program, just as an employee would take care to make sure each customer left the store with what they need.

AVID works to provide the tools students need to be successful in and after high school. Through daily rigorous WICORTS instruction, purposeful learning opportunities, and positive relationships, we are equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need and deserve.

Our AVID scholars voluntarily join our program because they have the Individual Determination to go to four year colleges directly after high school. Just like many people take on big projects when it comes to home improvement, so too our students have embarked on a lofty mission—to become college-ready. It is our job to coach them, provide them with the tools they need, and be there for them. Some need constant reassurance that they are capable of their mission and it is our job to remind them, “You Can Do It,” and that they aren’t alone in their journey, that their AVID family is there to support them and “We Can Help.”

I wish you a wonderful rest of the school year, and remember, You Can Do It. AVID Can Help.

Sincerely,

Molly LaBricciosa



### Upcoming Events

See what upcoming events you and your student need to know about!

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See what your students are learning, what you need to know, and how they should be preparing for college.

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### Get Involved

Pikesville High School AVID is looking for parent volunteers! See how you can contribute to our students’ success.

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# Upcoming Dates



## Close of FAFSA

Who: All seniors

What: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid closes.

When: March 1, midnight

Where: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>



## School Day SAT

Who: All students grades 10-11

What: 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take a practice SAT,

11<sup>th</sup> graders will take a real SAT, paid for by BCPS

When: April 10, 2018

Where: Pikesville High School classrooms



## AVID End of the Year Celebration

Who: All AVID scholars grades 9-12, their families, AVID Site Team, AVID Scholarship Donors

What: A celebration of the accomplishments of our AVID scholars, awarding of certifications and scholarships

When: April 11th, 6:30-8:00 PM

Where: Pikesville High School Auditorium



## AVID Senior Signing Day

Who: AVID Seniors, all AVID Scholars, AVID Senior Parents, AVID Site Team

What: AVID Seniors announce where they will be attending college in Fall 2018

When: May 1st, 8:00-9:30 AM

Where: Pikesville High School Auditorium



## BCPS AVID Graduation

Who: AVID Seniors, AVID Senior Parents,

What: AVID Seniors from all over BCPS celebrate the impact AVID has had on them

When: May 23rd, 7:00-8:00 PM; seniors arrive by 6:30

Where: Morgan State University, Murphy Fine Arts Center, 2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21251



# Course Registration 2018-2019



School Counselors are beginning the Course Registration process for the upcoming school year. Help ensure your student is registering for the most appropriate and rigorous courses.

Consider:

- Where do my student's interests align with courses offered?
- What courses would best benefit their intended career field/course of study?
- Do they need to increase the level of rigor in their classes?

All AVID 11th and 12th graders are required to take either an AP level course or a 100 level course at CCBC. Students may select the class most appropriate to their needs. If they need help selecting, please contact Mrs. LaBricciosa or their school counselor.

Note: All AVID 12th graders are required to select one of the following a) have a full course schedule b) enroll in a 100 level course at CCBC or other college/university c) participate in a GT level internship through Mr. Kreller.

**Wondering what courses to take? See what CollegeBoard says:**

## Find Your Future

Tomorrow's  
possibilities start  
today.

There are a million paths to your future. By giving you the opportunity to explore what interests you the most, AP courses help you find and pursue your unique direction.

There are more than 30 AP courses, each one of which connects directly to a wide variety of college majors and careers. For example, if you're thinking about law enforcement, did you know that it might help to take AP Psychology? Or that, if you want to be a sociologist, AP Statistics could be a good first step? Excited to know more? Use the tool above to see what AP courses prepare you for other future paths.

AP courses also help you transform the subjects you're enthusiastic about into a fulfilling future. If you're into studying languages, taking one in AP could help you in everything from a college major in languages to a career in Anthropology, Ethnic Studies, or Fashion Design. Surprised? See where an AP course subject could take you by using the tool above.

Find more information online at <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home>.

# Updates by Grade Level

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade AVID Update

By: Trey Vendrys



In AVID we have been working on various strategies to help us deepen our learning in our content area classes. We frequently use Cornell Notes in order to retain new information, organize our notes, and refine our note taking skills. We also conduct Tutorials, using AVID's Tutorial Request Forms (TRF's), to bring our points of confusion from our classes to our AVID peers, and use inquiry to solve them. This helps us develop a deeper understanding of concepts covered in our core content classes and develop necessary skills to become self-directed learners.

We also conduct Socratic Seminars on important social topics that impact our daily lives. For example, our class has talked about gun laws and minimum wage for newly starting businesses. Using the Socratic method, we are able to have rich conversations and work on our communication skills.

We practice incorporating text-based evidence into our conversation to help us prove our point of view. We enjoy learning from our peers while discussing important topics.

Throughout these past months, it has been great getting to know many new people with completely different backgrounds. Knowing people who are different from you allows you to see new perspectives and views on various experiences. To learn from my AVID family is amazing and its brought us closer. We have done a lot of group activities to get to know everyone and so far I love my AVID 9 family and the AVID system as a whole. I have learned so much from my teachers, as I have from my peers in the program and I look forward to learning much more as I continue my journey in the AVID.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade AVID Update

By: Jaylin Shaffer and Kaela Fuller-Baker

This year in AVID so far, we've worked on our note-taking skills and improved our critical reading through use of the N-CUL-R strategy. These skills are preparing each student for the SATs, by practicing analyzing complex texts and pulling out textual evidence to support our claims.

Some of the most important projects we've completed this year are the college presentations and our 21 day challenge. Our college presentations entailed us researching a college of our choice and looking at all the aspects that are involved with that college. The 21 day challenge was a project where we worked on our goal setting in order to break bad habits

and replace them with good ones. There were a variety of bad habits to choose from, ranging from procrastination to biting your nails. Some students even chose to start a new habit, like becoming vegan or to start working out.

Every other week we check up on our organization by having binder checks. Every Monday we get new SAT vocabulary words to help us expand our vocabulary. We also use tutorials to help each student solve points of confusion that they may have in other classes. At the end of each week, we play collaborative games that enhance critical thinking through puzzles and difficult word problems.



## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade AVID Update

By: Emely Deleon

In our AVID Class so far this year, we have been getting more involved in the college process and the importance of school selection.

At the beginning of every week we are introduced to new SAT words. With these words, our goal is to be able to use the words in a sentence correctly and expand our vocabulary. Within our regular schedule classes we are also required to take Cornell notes; we are enrolled in 8 classes, but are obligated to turn in 7 every two weeks. After taking notes, we choose one subject in which we need the most help in to bring to our tutorial groups. In these tutorials, we arrange our desks into groups based on the subject area the student needs help in. The person presenting tells the group their point of confusion and it's the job of the other students to help guide them, by

only asking the student presenter questions, to help find their answer.

We've also started writing about our *Dream College* and goals for the future in our interactive notebooks. These are an important part of preparing us for college and keeping us organized throughout the college research and application process.

We ensure that we are organized, and prepared for all of our classes by simply having binder checks every two weeks. Again, this enables the AVID students to stay on top of their classes, and to know where all of their paperwork is and not be cluttered. To reward our hard work we have fun Friday, these are days where we play games and have fun as a class to connect with each other.



## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade AVID Update

By: Autumn Young

In our AVID 12 class this year, we finalized our personal essays, evaluated each other's essays to correct grammatical errors and ensure that we narrowed our topic down to a specific event or time period. We then applied to colleges using the *Common Application*, Coalition Application or directly to the institutions.

In order to see how the admissions process transpires, we conducted mock admissions where we broke into pairs and examined each other's application the way an actual admissions counselor would. Our mock applications consisted of a transcript, personal essay using the Common Application prompts for 2018-2019, letter of recommendation and a résumé. In this scenario we were the admissions counselors for Maryland institutions such as Goucher, Mount Saint Mary's, McDaniel, University of Maryland College Park, and Johns Hopkins. We deliberated together to determine who we were going

to admit into our institution by using our acceptance rate; which allowed us to calculate how many students we could accept out of a pool of 22 applicants. We then wrote rejection and acceptance letters to the applicants. This experience helped us better prepare ourselves for potential rejection and the excitement of being accepted into a college or university.

So far our Senior AVID class has a **77% College Acceptance Rate**, with more acceptances on the way. Some schools that we have received acceptances from include Goucher College, University of Tampa, Bowie University, UMBC, Lincoln University, Salisbury University, Rollins College, Hampton University, Towson University, Mount Saint Mary's, Keystone College and Hood College. We have begun to tackle scholarships, determined to make our cost of college as minuscule as possible.



We are always looking for ways to involve our AVID Families! If you would like to contribute in any of the following ways, please contact Mrs. LaBricciosa, AVID Coordinator, at [mcoleman6@bcps.org](mailto:mcoleman6@bcps.org).

- Guest Speakers
- Field Trip Chaperones
- Site Team Members
- Classroom Tutors
- Event Facilitators
- Scholarship Donors

## Did you know?

- 100% of the PHS AVID class of 2017 applied to college
- 96% were admitted to four year colleges
- 92% are attending four year colleges
- They earned over \$1,900,000 in scholarships!
- They were accepted to...

