

## **A VISION... A DREAM...**

In 1980, Mary Catherine Swanson created the AVID program in San Diego as an answer to the problem enrolling under-served students in post-secondary education and reaching students in the middle. Beginning with one high school and 32 students, the program now serves over 700,000 students in more than 4,900 schools in 46 states and 16 countries. The AVID Program has graduated thousands of students and matriculated them to college at over a 95 percent rate. Nationally, over 89 percent of AVID graduates go directly to a four-year college, which is significant compared to the 34 percent for non-AVID students.

## **WHAT IS AVID?**

AVID, or Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an academic program designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. The target AVID student is a student who has a strong desire to attend a four-year university and may or may not have an engraved foundation for success. AVID students are bright students who may be underachieving, or they are first-generation college bound students who could benefit from additional guidance and support of a highly structured program. The AVID elective is a class that provides social and academic support as well as academic monitoring and tutoring. The class focuses on reading and writing skills, organizational skills, Socratic questioning skills and collaborative learning skills. Students have access to college-age tutors and take part in test preparation lessons to increase their performance in rigorous classes as well as standardized exams, such as the SAT and ACT.

## **AVID CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

- Weekly tutorial sessions with college tutors
- Writing Cornell notes in all classes
- Researching and applying to colleges
- Applying for financial aid and scholarships
- Researching professional careers
- Visiting college campuses
- Interacting with guest speakers
- Standardized test preparation
- WICR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, and Reading) based lessons
- Parent information sessions

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

Students will:

- ⇒ bring a strong work ethic to AVID
- ⇒ complete their assignments and do their best in all of their classes
- ⇒ maintain positive attendance and classroom behavior
- ⇒ commit to enrollment in a rigorous college preparatory sequence of courses, including advanced or AP courses based on academic ability
- ⇒ apply to a four-year college or university as a senior
- ⇒ maintain a competitive "college-prep" GPA/ progressing each year
- ⇒ participate in the AVID program for all four years of high school
- ⇒ demonstrate C.L.A.S.S. on campus and in the community