



Dear Finch Parents and Community,

Currently, all of our 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms are taking part in the AVID program. AVID, (Advancement via Individual Determination), is dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other postsecondary opportunities. Established more than 30 years ago with one teacher in one classroom, AVID today impacts more than 800,000 students in 44 states and 16 other countries/territories.

**What AVID Does:**

Simply, AVID provides professional development around teaching educators to use proven practices in order to prepare students for success in high school, college, and a career, especially students traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

**How AVID Works:**

AVID brings research-based strategies and curriculum to educational institutions in elementary, secondary, and higher education. The AVID System annually provides more than 30,000 educators with training and methodologies that develop students' critical thinking, literacy, and math skills across all content areas throughout the entire campus, in what we call Schoolwide AVID.

**What AVID implementation will look like at Finch Elementary:**

- Students learn the skills and behaviors necessary for academic success
- Student support and strong student/teacher relationships
- A school-wide culture focused around learning skills necessary in high school and post-secondary pursuits, such as 2-year college, 4-year college, technical school, or military service
- A learning environment focused around providing a positive peer group for students
- Students develop a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination
- Students learn organizational skills such as using a daily planner to keep track of homework and upcoming important dates and activities, note-taking strategies, and setting goals
- Sharing information with parents at conferences and parent workshops throughout the year (i.e. The Road to College, Saving for Your Child's College)
- Classroom lessons that integrate student success skills needed to be ready for post-secondary pursuits, such as note-taking, time management, public speaking, analyzing a variety of texts, and using organizational tools such as a binder and planner
- Classroom lessons that also integrate WICOR strategies focused around writing to learn, inquiry, collaboration, organizational skills, and reading to learn.

We are excited to be working with your student to help ensure that he/she is ready to tackle the next step in his/her educational career and beyond. By working together we can help your student set and reach his/her big goals.

Respectfully,

Finch 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers, Principal and Principal Assistant