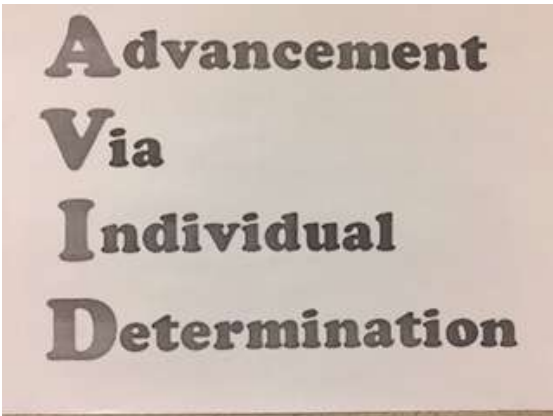




Written by: Amelia Garrett

AVID is a new academic program that is being taught to the 7th and 8th graders of Franklin Middle. I was interested about what AVID was because I'm in 6th grade and it is not offered. Ms. Swales, an AVID teacher here at Franklin Middle, was nice enough to meet with me and answer a few questions. "AVID is a college and career readiness elective course. In fact, it is an international organization that stands for Advancement via Individual Determination."



AVID teachers help seek to empower and encourage students who may be the first one in their family to go to college. Students who are being taught AVID learn how to organize themselves, how to manage their time, how to write longer essays, how to manage themselves during public speaking environments, how to take notes, how to work collaboratively, how to have open and honest discussions, and more. After a short talk, Ms. Swales asked Ms. Mears (AVID Coordinator) to help her answer a few questions.

I once asked if they were offered any AVID program when they were in school. Ms. Mears said, "No, AVID was not offered at my school, however my mother made it very clear that to be successful in school I had to be dedicated and give 100% even if I didn't earn an A" and Ms. Swales said, "AVID was not offered at my school; all of my skills were taught to me by my father and trial and error in school". The teachers seemed to like their jobs, but I needed their opinion. I asked if they liked teaching AVID. They both said that they loved it and Ms. Swale's favorite part is when she gets to go on the college campus tours. Mr. Mears favorite part is seeing her students confidence grow and evolve.

AVID seemed very complex and I wondered how hard it is for kids to learn it. "Kids have no trouble learning AVID, but it doesn't mean it's easy either. Students have a unique curriculum that pushes them but also supports them. The students also know that their peers are their greatest allies because they're not AVID classes, they're AVID families and as a family they help one another." The AVID is a complex program taught by many teachers, Ms. Swales and Ms. Mears both have a masters in School Counseling and also done two institutes and institute trainings. I might of told you about AVID, but the only why you will know it all is to take an AVID class!