**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)** is offered as an elective course that prepares students for entrance into four-year colleges. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, study skills and test taking, note-taking, and research. These skills are all supported through WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) strategies used throughout the AVID elective, as well as their core curriculum.

**Skills Covered:**

Students will learn and apply AVID skills, such as: • Note-taking • Organization • Time management • Goal setting • Oral communication through presentations, Socratic Seminars, and a public speaking unit • Writing to learn activities • Multi-Grade Level Portfolio.

In the Junior Year, students will refine the AVID strategies to meet their independent needs and learning styles. Students will continue to refine and adjust their academic learning plans and goals, increasing awareness of their actions and behaviors. Students will expand their writing portfolios to help them meet the rigor of AP classes, participate in collaborative discussion while also developing leadership skills in those settings. Lastly, students will begin to narrow down their college and careers of interest, based on personal interests and goals.

**Objectives of the AVID elective course**:

1.Students will take courses that meet four year college entrance requirements.

2. Students will participate in tutorials for academic courses.

3. Students will learn and apply AVID skills, including note-taking, organization, time management, and goal setting.

4. Students will improve their oral communication skills through a variety of activities, including presentation and Socratic Seminar.

5. Students will participate in writing to learn activities, including note-taking, learning logs, and essay writing.

6. Students will learn to evaluate their own and other’s writing, using the rubrics and scoring guides modeled after college writing courses.

7. Students will prepare for college entrance examinations, including the SAT®, SAT® Subject, or ACT.

8. Students will complete a multi-grade level portfolio of their work in AVID.

9. Students will plan, participate in, and reflect upon a minimum of 75 hours of community service by the time they graduate.

10. Students will visit at least two colleges or universities during each academic year.

**Assessment**

Grades will be given based on the following criteria: Completion and accuracy of assigned work, tests and quizzes, homework, projects, and participation. Accommodations

                 Grading Scale: (in accordance with Shelby County Schools)

**93 – 100 (A)  92-85 (B)   84 – 77 (C)   75 – 70 (D)   69 or below (F**)

**Skills Assessment:** AVID students will be assessed using a variety of performance-based assessments. They will be judged not only on the AVID “basics” such as a well-organized notebook, participation in tutorials, and note-taking, but also according to their performance on timed writings, practice college entrance tests, participation in Socratic Seminars, and other activities. Students are required to develop and present the Multi-Grade Level Portfolio at the end of each year, representing their work in the AVID program.

**Class Participation:** This class is DEPENDENT on class participation. It is imperative that you start to take ownership of your own education not only for high school but for college and beyond. This class is a support for your other classes and that means YOU HAVE TO PARTICIPATE!!!!

**Makeup Work**: Make up work is your responsibility. It is YOUR responsibility to turn in missed work!!! If there are assignments (TESTS included) NOT turned in at the end of every 3 week grading period, they turn into zeros.

I want to emphasize that it is a college-level class therefore YOU are responsible for making arrangements to get your missing work and/or notes. If you are having trouble, PLEASE do not hesitate to speak with me. I am here to support you anyway possible.

**Attendance:** I understand that absences happen, and I also understand that history is probably NOT your favorite thing to talk and read about. However, if you do not have regular attendance, it makes it more difficult on you to “catch up.” DO NOT put yourself in a position of playing catch up…this IS a REQUIRED course to graduate. If you miss more than 15 minutes of any class, you are considered ABSENT!!! This includes if you are checked out early or you leave my room for any reason. Each unexcused absence will result in the recording of a “0” grade in the grade book and will be calculated into the overall percentage of the final grade. Excused absences will also result in a “0” grade and will remain in the grade book until the student successfully completes the missing assignment. You will know at least a week in advance when we will have a test. If you miss class the day before a test, you WILL STILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE TEST!!!

*Teacher Expectations*

**Communication**: The best way is to reach me is through Remind 101; make sure you have signed up and downloaded the app. I check it several times a day and can respond quickly. You may also email me at [bondk1@scsk12.org](mailto:bondk1@scsk12.org).

**Canvas:** We will be using Canvas throughout the year, so students must have access to it and know their log-in information. Students will receive a link via SCS email.

**Tutoring & Extra Help:** I am available to help after school, usually until 3:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Wednesdays are by appointment. I will leave school earlier if you are not in my room after-school. If you want or need to stay after-school, let me please schedule a session so I can make sure that I stay in the building.

Tentative Schedule

1st Quarter: Goal Setting, AVID Inquiry strategies, ACT Test Preparations

2nd Quarter: Perfect Colleges, College Level Text Analysis

3rd Quarter: Public Speaking Unit

4th Quarter: College and Career Research