

AVID Year in Review

PLANO ISD

2008—2009

VOLUME I

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **AVID makes an impact: 2008-2009 data**
- **AVID Serves**
- **What students have to say**
- **AVID Events**

“When I enrolled in the AVID program, I expected to become more educated on the steps I needed to take in order to go to college. However, I found AVID to be more than just a college-prep class. I found a family that would guide me step-by-step to become more successful as a student and as a person.”

Jessica Casas
11th Grade
PWSH

AVID Makes an Impact

AVID serves students from 16 secondary campuses. Armstrong, Bowman, Frankford, Haggard, Renner, Wilson, Shepton, Vines and Williams have completed their third year with the AVID program. These programs continue to grow and serve more students. Many of these campuses have gone school-wide with AVID strategies such as Cornell Note-taking and Binders. All of these campuses received AVID Certification from AVID Center indicating they met the criteria for all eleven AVID Essentials.

Carpenter, Hendrick, Murphy, Clark, Plano East, Plano Senior, and Plano West just completed their first year with the AVID program. These programs had a very successful implementation year.



AVID students are encouraged to participate in honors, pre AP and AP courses. Students take part in tutorials 2 days a week to help prepare them for these classes. The students pictured are from Armstrong MS.

2008—2009 Data Highlights

In 2008-2009, Plano Served 533 Middle school AVID students.

- 459 took at least one honors course.
- 86 took AP Spanish in 8th grade.
- 36% of MS AVID students are Hispanic, 35% are Caucasian, 20% are African American, 8% are Asian, and 1% is American Indian.

Plano also served 364 High School Students. (Grades 9 -12)

- 277 took at least one pre-AP course.
- 993 pre-AP courses were taken by AVID students.
- 83 AP courses were taken by AVID students.
- 41% of HS AVID students are Hispanic, 29% are African American, 26% are Caucasian, and 4% are Asian.

Alonso Cadenas, Jennifer Addison, and Lara Zolotar (Study Group Leader). Students worked in Study Groups two days every week. (PWSH)



AVID Students Serve...

Shepton



Silverado Assistance Living Center cares for senior citizens that have Alzheimer disease and

emotional needs. Shepton AVID volunteered at this living center to contribute to our community and to make a difference. The AVID students communicated with the residents and gained wisdom from the senior citizens while helping the staff serve dinner. After serving dinner, the students visited with the residents, and learned information



from their past. This experience taught AVID students that by accomplishing more community services, we also helped ourselves become better people.

“It was a good experience being able to help the senior citizens at Silverado. It was a unique and inspiring experience.”
-Brielle Brennan

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

~Dr. MLK Jr.

Hendrick
Carpenter
&
Clark
Creek
Clean-Up

Plano East



Plano East AVID students at Live Green Expo unloaded many boxes to the paper shredder. They greeted Plano residents with a smile and lifted TONS (literally) of paper to be shredded – making the earth green.



Plano Senior

Plano Senior High School AVID students partner with the Plano PALs Wednesdays after school to lead by example at the Douglass Community Center.

Hendrick AVID Students participated in the 1st Annual Creek Clean-up on April 18th. They joined forces with Clark High School and Carpenter Middle School to make Hoblitzelle Park and the Creek that runs past each of our schools cleaner and safer for the community.



AVID Students at all campuses made posters and created cards for the teachers at Special Programs. Above, PWASH AVID students show off their poster.

What Do Students Say About AVID?

Being an honors student, I felt, was never in the cards for me. I always thought it was for the super smart kids who could answer every question in class. Then came along the opportunity to be in AVID and that is where life dealt me a new hand. I learned that being an honors student was more than just knowing all the answers in class. It is about having good work and study habits. I have gone from a stretch goal of one honors class, to having recommendations by teachers for all honors classes.

Keoni Holoman

9th Grade—Vines High School

I view my life as a novel that is just starting to be written. The first chapter would be titled “AVID”. I would begin here because I feel AVID has opened up a new world to me. I now view my academic career as a world of many choices and opportunities. I have learned that if I make a mistake it is not the end, rather the beginning. The beginning of a lesson learned. I have been given the skills in this valuable program to deal with mistakes and move on.

Erin van Creveld

7th grade—Frankford Middle School

As high school students, it is crucial that we take advantage of every opportunity presented to us, wisely. And, not to find ourselves in search of a time machine in which to travel back to those shattered years of praying to mend all of the broken pieces. The person we evolve into during our high school years is, for the most part, the companion that will follow us in the rest of our journey. AVID allowed me to “think outside the box”, to step back from the situation for just a moment, to contemplate the big picture of life, and to locate the direction I would be taking next. The direction in which a greater way of living awaited; one truly worth working towards.

Xantal Garcia

11th Grade—Plano West

AVID has allowed me to view the world with a more critical and objective eye. I have learned how every day is molded into the grand sculpture of life. I have learned that through my mistakes I can paint on the beautiful canvas which is my future. I have also learned that my big picture is separate and unique from the big picture of my classmates. My big picture is a photograph of success and AVID has been

the snapshot in my life worth more than a thousand words. AVID has played a huge role in my life and a significant amount of my being is attributed to what I have gleaned from taking this course. And, if I may be so bold, AVID is more than a mere course calculated into GPA, it is the foundation for which greatness is based upon. AVID helped me to see that every situation I face today is but a rung on the ladder of

greatness for tomorrow.

Throughout this course I have learned that my path in life is what I make it. AVID teaches every students to determine what makes them unique and then to embrace those features. In assessing what I have to offer the world, I can control my destiny.

Ashley Garner

11th Grade

Plano West

“Throughout this course I have learned that my path in life is what I make it.”

AVID was the only class that made me challenge myself. Before AVID, I was just a typical, ordinary student who was terrified to go into an honors class because these classes were known for intellectual students. But AVID pushed me and said

that I was just like anyone and I can be smart like anyone in an advanced class. At the present, I have taken and passed Honors Algebra, Chemistry, History, Geography, and Spanish 2. I would not have the confidence to take all of these classes if

AVID wasn't there to push me and help me to challenge myself and know that I am clever.

Josie Asamoah

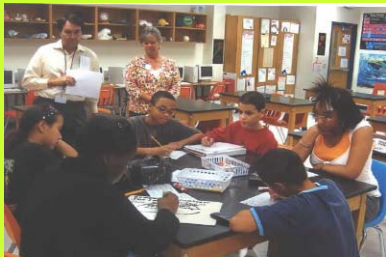
10th Grade

Shepton High School



Armstrong AVID Students

At Armstrong Middle School this year we set a goal to incorporate the AVID style tutorials school wide. To accomplish this goal we had to develop training for the staff. The students led the training for the staff at one of the after school faculty meetings. About fifty AVID students stayed to demonstrate what AVID tutorials should look like. The students were divided into nine groups and they brought questions for the demonstration. The faculty was then divided into nine groups and was sent to the various rooms to watch the students conduct the mock tutorial. Eighth graders were given the task of tutor for many of the groups. The students worked through one question for each of the four core subjects. The staff then was brought back to the large group and debriefed what they saw. The staff took Cornell Notes over the presentations and asked questions of the students after the demonstrations.



Murphy

Murphy Middle School 7th and 8th grade AVID students, their tutors, and sponsors visited Group Dynamix in Carrollton on May 20th. Group Dynamix is an organization focused on youth groups. It is their goal to take a fun approach in getting a diverse group of youth to become an effective team. It was fun and helped the two Murphy AVID groups get to know one another better.

The first part of the visit was focused on group games that involve all of the students and require that they work together to achieve a common goal. The second part of the experience is a ropes course that the students really enjoyed. Some of the students attacked the course with a vengeance, while others were required to face their fears and take chances they didn't think they could face. By the end of the event, all of the Murphy students, even those who had initially been timid, were sliding, skating, and tightrope walking well above the floor of the building on the indoor ropes course.

The final part of the day was devoted to "inflatables". An inflated slide and a boxing ring with a bounce house floor and giant, inflated, boxing gloves provided fun for those sliding and "boxing" as well as the observers.

The event was a great experience for all the kids and will certainly be repeated in the future.



Plano West

Plano West Senior High School AVID students completed many of the steps necessary on their road to college. This year, AVID students prepared for and took the PSAT, took the SAT or ACT, participated in 20 hours of community service, drafted their Texas Common Applications and essays, explored potential colleges, and started research on the financial aspects of college. Throughout the year AVID students have heard numerous guest speakers discuss their chosen professions.

Along the journey, many students were able to demonstrate leadership skills through interpersonal relationships, study groups, and the AVID Club. Most students spoke to various groups about their experiences with the AVID program. This Spring, students took a field trip to Stephen F. Austin University in East Texas.

The PWSH AVID students have grown and matured personally, academically, and professionally throughout this school year. This will prepare them for the exciting activities that are to come in their senior year!



PWSH AVID students participated in a secret gift exchange the week before and revealed themselves at the Holiday Stay Day.



Students traveled to East Texas to tour Stephen F. Austin University.

Plano ISD AVID is grateful to its community partners.

**EDS Credit Union
Nortel
Viewpoint Bank
&
The Plano Education
Foundation**

In addition to monetary support, our partners have hosted the AVID students for field trips and provided guest speakers for the AVID classrooms. Our students benefit from the commitment of our partners.

For more information about the AVID program in Plano ISD. Please contact:

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