# Why AVID?

**Willis AVID Elective**

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| AVID Elective Syllabus | **2019-2020** | Ms. Smith |

# AVID Curriculum

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The class is broken into 3 segments:

1. AVID Curriculum: strategies for college & career
2. Tutorials: study process
3. Academic and Motivational Activities

We will be integrating technology where possible and using platforms like Google Classroom. Sign the AGENDA and remember digital citizenship is key.

-According to *2013 U.S. News and World*, 72 of the top 100 U.S. Universities are using Google Apps for Education and 7 of 8 Ivy League Schools.

-Willis provides Homework hub M-Th from 4-5pm with a late bus if you need internet access or a place to complete homework please attend.

-Most teachers also offer tutoring for their specific subject. AVID is Thurs.

- We do host guest speakers and visit nearby colleges.

\* Consider donating to tax credit for the AVID Club to decrease costs and benefit yourself at tax time. More information online.

AVID has served students since 1982, and is currently an international program. It works.

**“AVID students are expected to act as model students in all of their classes by taking notes, listening, questioning, and being prepared.”**

AVID or Achievement Via Individual Determination hinges on each individual’s pursuance of college and career readiness through their own perseverance. Each student will be held to academically rigorous core courses with support in the AVID Elective to provide the skills necessary to reach this high level of expectation. AVID International seeks to prepare all students to increase the number of students who go to college in the development of this Elective through researched strategies in study skills, discussion protocols, note-taking processes, and by providing countless resources. Students have the opportunity to learn valuable inquiry skills and skills not otherwise specifically taught in the classroom. AVID students are expected to act as model students in all of their classes by taking notes, listening, questioning, and being prepared. They are to be willing to participate and to cooperate with peers as part of a team. Also, AVID students are expected to participate in at least one school activity such as a club or sport. In return, they will develop their career and college path. *Please see the AVID student agreement for all expectations.*

# How are students assessed?

There is a lot of learning going on, so the grading process happens in stages. This is a fast-paced class, with a lot of support; the energy is high, but participation is a must!

Grades for the AVID Elective will be based on scales developed using the standards for AVID and Arizona state standards for College and Career Readiness.

While material is being taught, formative assessments will be used to track progress towards mastery and for feedback, but not for a final grade.

Summative scores are recorded to determine independent mastery of a skill or standard. Summative assessments are used in the calculation for the final grade. Earning a 3 on a 4-point scale is not a 75%, it represents basic mastery and a student earns an 88% as a grade.

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| Gwen Smith, M.A.Ed  Willis Junior High School |
| Please contact me with any further questions, or visit my website <https://www.cusd80.com/Page/27013> on the Willis webpage for more information and follow it to get future updates.  Smith.gwen@cusd80.com  (480) 883-5748 |
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|  | *Welcome to our class! I am excited to see new and returning faces in the AVID elective this year. I have been teaching at Willis for sixteen years and have worked with the AVID program for three. I have taught other electives, seventh and eighth grade math, and language arts. I received training in the AVID elective. As well as, helped at the state and district level with developing scales for assessment. I attended ASU for my undergraduate and earned a Master’s in Education Administration at UoP. I look forward to a great 2019-2020 school year!* |  |

Students can reattempt mastery after attending tutoring with me to practice the skill, if they choose.

AVID students should expect at least an hour of homework per night in additional to reviewing and completing notes.

Students will be assessed on: Agenda Checks, Binder Organization, Cornell notes completed for all core classes, weekly tutorials, AVID curriculum skills, Reflections, learning logs, reading annotations, preparation for and participation in discussion groups, and academic skills.

Should a student fall below a C grade in any course, the student will be placed on an AVID probationary contract.