

Representing the following counties:

- Alameda
- Contra Costa
- Marin
- Napa
- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Solano

January — February 2004



Rigor

It is critical for high school students bound for colleges and universities to experience rigorous curriculum according to an article entitled “Answers in the Tool Box: Academic Intensity, Attendance Patterns, and Bachelor’s Degree Attainment” by Clifford Adelman. The rigor positively influences bachelor’s degree completion. The following points are findings from the research:

- High school curriculum reflects 41 percent of the academic resources students bring to higher education; test scores 30 percent; and class rank/academic GPA, 29 percent.
- The impact of a high school curriculum of high academic intensity and quality on degree completion is far more pronounced – and positively – for African-American and Latino students than any other pre-college indicator of academic resources.
- Of all pre-college curricula, the highest level of mathematics one studies in secondary school has the strongest continuing influence on bachelor’s degree completion. Finishing a course beyond Algebra 2 more than doubles the odds that a student who enters postsecondary education will complete a bachelor’s degree.
- Academic resources (the composite of high school curriculum, test scores, and class rank) produce a much steeper curve toward bachelor’s degree completion than does socioeconomic status (SES). Students from the lowest two SES quintiles who are also in the highest Academic Resources quintile earn bachelor’s degrees at a higher rate than a majority of students from the top SES quintile. Advanced Placement course taking is more strongly correlated with bachelor’s degree completion than it is with college access.

These findings are proof that we as AVID educators must push to have AVID students included in AP courses at our high schools.

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AVID Center**
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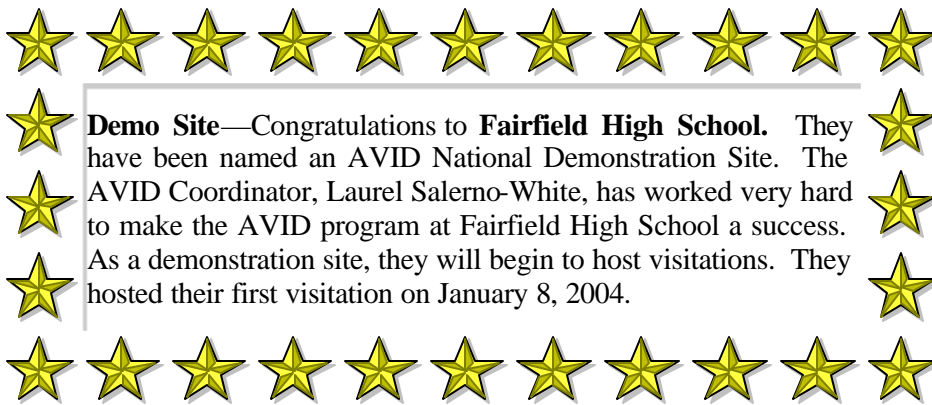
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Important Notes...

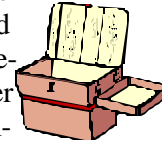
- ♦ **Site Conference**—In late January, a Site Team Conference will be held at both the San Mateo and Contra Costa County offices. The UC Outreach program staff will do a presentation on building a college going culture at your site. In addition, AVID site teams will have the opportunity to work together to develop a deeper understanding of the AVID Program Essentials and the expectations for the March Peer Review. Registration forms are available on the website (www.avidregion4.org). There is NO cost to attend the Site Team Conference.

Contra Costa COE
January 27, 2004
4:30-7:00 p.m.

San Mateo COE
January 29, 2004
5:00-7:30 p.m.

- ♦ **Data Collection**—As of January 5, 2004, 65% of the AVID programs in Region IV had submitted the required data. Thank you to the schools that submitted by December 15, 2003. Those of you who made the submission deadline will be receiving resources for your AVID classroom. If you have not submitted your data online, please do so as soon as possible. If you need assistance, call us at 925/942-5395. Regions are required to have a 100% data submission rate.
- **Recruitment**—In January, the AVID staff is holding Recruitment workshops. Recruitment is one of the AVID Essentials that schools sometimes have difficulty implementing. Please attend the workshop and bring an administrator or counselor with you so they can begin to understand the importance of recruiting the correct students into the AVID class. Remember, AVID works when sites adhere to implementing the Essentials.

- ♦ **Portfolios**—In October at the Regional meetings, each AVID school received a portfolio box in which to place your evidence relating to the AVID Essentials. If you didn't attend the meeting, your coordinator has delivered the box to your site. Remember to place materials in the box that demonstrate that your program meets the Essentials. At the Regional meeting in March all coordinators will be asked to share the evidence from three Essentials with two other programs. The process should assist each program to write the AVID site plan. We will be discussing the process more in depth at the January Regional Meeting.



- ♦ **Write Off**—In December, the Write Off packets were sent to each AVID site. The prompt will be mailed by January 27, 2004. This is a good opportunity for your students to practice their writing skills. The timeline is as follows:

- ♦ Prompt mailed by January 27, 2004
- ♦ Students write between February 2-13, 2004
- ♦ AVID teacher/coordinators mail the two best essays from each AVID section to the attention of Liz Rusk, Region IV AVID, Contra Costa COE, 77 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, by February 20, 2004
- ♦ Essays scored March 2, 2004
- ♦ All winners to receive plaques; all participants to receive certificates



Dates to Remember...

The 2003-2004 Regional Workshop Schedule:

January 27, 2004	4:30-7:00 pm	CCCOE
January 29, 2004	5:00-7:30 pm	SMCOE
March 16, 2004	9:00-3:00 pm	SMCOE
March 17, 2004	8:30-2:30 pm	CCCOE

For more details visit us on the web at
www.avidregion4.org

Other Regional Events:

Student Recruitment Workshops

January 26, 2004	4:30-6:00 pm	SMCOE
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Awareness Sessions

February 3, 2004	McKinley Institute
February 5, 2004	Fairfield High School

Socratic Seminar

March 6, 2004	9:00-1:00 pm	CCCOE
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School News...

♦ The AVID field trip to the University of San Francisco on December 4, 2003, was a fantastic experience for the 50 students of **John Muir Middle School**. Immediately upon arriving at the campus, the students were separated into groups and taken on a campus tour by current college students. They witnessed campus life by visiting a dormitory, eating in the cafeteria, browsing around the bookstore, and walking through many of the buildings on campus, including the five-story fitness center, church and library. The newly resurfaced soccer field impressed many of the seventh graders. Seventh grader Marissa Abreu said this about the experience, "I like the church and the dorms were cool. I didn't really mind the rain, I thought it was cool and more fun with the rain." At the end of the tour the students were gathered into a cozy room where a fire was blazing to hear a presentation about college admission requirements, paying for a college education, and the history of the university. Eighth grader Josh Carey commented, "It was fun. The presentation was very interesting, and he gave useful information."



♦ Students from **Tierra Linda Middle School's** AVID program attended a Stanford Women's basketball game on November 25, 2003. The AVID students were accompanied by their AVID teachers, Mr. Dodge (P.E.) and Ms. Core (Humanities), and their beloved principal, Mr. Simchison. The students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the game, especially because they had courtside seats! The 8th graders are busy working on nearing the completion of their career project portfolios, while the 7th graders are completing their college power points. Their AVID teachers are excited about the outcome of their hard work and proud of the accomplishments of AVID students Lamont McNaulty (8th) and Cristal Medina (7th). Both students were named as Students of the Month in November. Congrats to both!



♦ **Carlmont High School** Junior AVID is hard at work preparing for the SAT and ACT. Sophomore AVID is working on interviewing AP teachers and finding out the requirements and expectations of AP classes. Freshman AVID continues to work on study skills and prepare for their first final exams in high school. Carlmont's AVID program will continue with their fundraising efforts.

This makes it possible for students to go on field trips. Next semester fundraising will be Candy Sales, Valentine Grams and a Car Wash. The students will also be visiting Sonoma State University and SF State University.



Mandatory After-School Tutorials

AVID students at **Sequoia High School** are regularly monitored in all of their classes to ensure that students take immediate action when their grades begin to slip. The AVID program has instituted an additional and mandatory tutoring-hours requirement for AVID students earning grades of C or below on either their progress reports or report cards.

2 or more C's = 2 hours per week after school

1 or more D's or F's = 3 hours per week after school



These hours can be earned at the after school Learning Center, Tuesday Night Math sessions, with private tutors, or one-on-one sessions with their subject area teachers. Attendance in the mandatory hours is part of the AVID grade. Wonderful idea!

♦ During **Alameda High School's** October break, a group of seven students in the 11th grade AVID class continued with their weekly AVID AP tutorials by meeting during vacation with a dedicated tutor at the Alameda Main Library. The tutorial continued when the students went to one of the student's home and had dinner of French fries, hot pockets, and chicken ravioli. These were truly motivated and committed AVID students. Kudos to Alameda High School!

College T-shirts on display in Jeff Darrow's class—MIT



Eye catching bulletin board at MIT

School News...

- ♦ Three AVID Elective classes at **Galileo Academy** were fortunate to have the author Robert San Souci speak to them about writing, with an emphasis on the issue of editing. We have found that students have difficulty dealing with the laborious task of re-writing and accepting criticism. He showed slides and spoke about his passion for writing and how he researches for new stories/books. In addition, he shared his experiences as a writer and encouraged the teachers to support their students in pursuing their writing interests. AVID classes this fall have visited Notre Dame de Namur University and UC Santa Cruz (Class of 2004), Holy Names College and University of the Pacific (Class of 2005), and UC Berkeley (Class of 2006).
- ♦ **Burlingame Intermediate** attended a field trip to Stanford University on December 3, 2003. Students enjoyed lunch in the Student Union, time in the Bookstore to buy Stanford stuff galore, and a tour led by a Stanford student. Highlights were visiting the beautiful campus church, learning a little about admissions requirements and campus life, and being able to ask many questions. It was an overall great day.
- ♦ **Capuchino High School** AVID just returned from a 3-day college tour of Southern California. We visited USD, UCSD, SD State, Fullerton, Long Beach, and UC Irvine. Students were also able to visit Disneyland on Friday night. AVID hosted a potluck for faculty, staff and parents on December 12, 2003.
- ♦ On Wednesday night, January 14, 2004, at Vic's All Star Café in Downtown Pleasanton, the AVID 10 and AVID 9 classes hosted a spaghetti feed to raise money for **Amador Valley High School's** AVID fund. Students, parents, friends, teachers, and administrators attended the event which netted approximately \$2,000 for the AVID fund at Amador Valley. Over 300 tickets were pre-sold for \$10 each. Brian Ladd and Ryan Templeman, AVID teachers, say the purpose of their fundraisers is to help defray the costs of field trips and college visits for the AVID students and their families. They encourage fundraising, citing they want the kids to feel like they have earned their field trips and college visits.
- ♦ **New Employees join the AVID Staff**—Welcome to Gary Williams, the new AVID Coordinator for Region IV. Gary has taught in Sonoma county and has been a principal and principal/superintendent in both Lassen and San Benito counties. We are pleased to have Gary on board. Because we have a new staff member, some schools will be shifted from one coordinator to another. The list of sites assigned to each coordinator is included in the newsletter. Another new employee is Kelly Laidley, a .5 support person. Kelly has worked at Contra Costa COE for 9 years in the BTSA and Pre-intern Programs.



Students from Central Middle School's AVID Program listen to guest speaker, Dr. Lloyd Wilson, DVM.

