

Representing the following counties:

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

November—December 2004

Happy Holidays

Write – Off



If you are planning on having your students participate in the Write-Off, you might like to have a copy of the Write-Off binder we created this year. Jeanne Ek Dahl, a lecturer and Assessment Coordinator for the English Placement Test from Cal State, Hayward, helped to develop this binder. We gave out copies at the Regional Workshop in September. If you didn't attend and want a copy of this binder, please e-mail or call Gail Schroeder at: gshroed@cccoe.k12.ca.us or 925-942-5395.

Practice prompts will be e-mailed in early November to all AVID teacher/coordinators. Please use these sample prompts to assist your students with learning how to respond to an EPT-like prompt. It will help prepare them for the CAHSEE, the Early Assessment Program and the EPT. All of these tests ask students to respond to a piece of non-fiction writing.

Early Assessment Program



Last spring the Early Assessment Program exam was given for the first time. The EAP results will inform students about their college readiness to determine if they are ready for college level work. The EAP is voluntary for 11th grade students. If students do well, they will not have to take the CSU-required English and/or mathematics placement exams nor will they have to take remedial coursework. If they do not do well, they have their senior year to improve their skills in writing and math.

Any 11th grade student who is considering applying to a CSU campus should take the EAP. It is a voluntary assessment. Prior to the high school's scheduled CST administration in the spring, 11th graders should receive information about the EAP.

Regional Meetings – December

In December at the Regional Meeting, two topics will be addressed: Curriculum Calibration and the new Certification document. Curriculum Calibration focuses on rigor. By looking at the standards and student work, we can determine if the level of work is rigorous enough for the grade level.

The new Certification document will be used in spring 2006 to certify all AVID sites worldwide. This document is presently being piloted in each region in California. By working with the document in December, each program will have the opportunity to determine its strengths and weaknesses and what steps will need to be taken to ensure certification. Come work with your AVID colleagues. The information and the collaboration are critical to our work.

AVID Certification for 2004-2005

Last year AVID Region IV asked all of the AVID programs to focus on three Essentials: Essential 1 – Recruitment, Essential 8 – Tutors and one of the program's choice. If by June 2004, AVID programs were not fully implementing either Essential 1 or 8, they were asked to write their Site Plan focusing on one or both of those Essentials. For the 2004-2005 school year, programs in Region IV will be focusing on Essential 4 – Rigor and Essential 11 – Site Team.

As you collect evidence for your portfolio box, make sure that you have enough evidence in Essentials 4 and 11 to hold a discussion with peers about what you have done to meet those Essentials. AVID Coordinators will be asking to see that evidence as part of the certification process.

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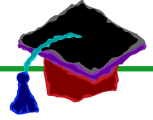
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GO AVID!

Important Notes...



CSAC Grant

AVID Center wrote a grant to increase the number of FAFSAs filed by seniors on AVID campuses in March 2005. All AVID high school sites have been invited to participate in this effort. AVID sites were invited to attend professional development on financial aid in October in Region IV. If you did not attend one of these meetings, you are still eligible to work with us to increase the number of seniors on your campus who fill out the FAFSA. Money is available for stipends for your work in this effort. For more information, call Bob Wack at: (510) 336-0812.

Save the Date



Summer Institute for summer 2005:

Sacramento – July 18-22

San Diego – August 1-5

School News...

Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School

Ingrid B. Lacy's 7th grade AVID students are getting involved in life beyond the classroom. Nine AVID students volunteered at the Beach Clean Up Day at Linda Mar Beach on 9/18/04, taking pride in helping their community. Ten AVID students belong to the school marching band which has already won a 2nd place trophy in Newark on 9/18/04 and also represented our school in Pacifica's Fog Fest Parade on 9/25/04. We are all looking forward to our first field trip on 10/22/04 to the Hiller Aviation Museum and a tour of San Francisco International Airport.

Woodside Seniors Celebrate Success

Amid the linen tablecloths swaying gracefully in the breeze, the orange, black, and white balloons bobbing overhead and the proud faces of their dedicated parents, Woodside High School's AVID class of 2004 came together to celebrate their success on the evening of May 18, 2004.

Students organized a delicious catered meal in the landscaped garden of a generous AVID supporter in Portola Valley. A yearbook committee gathered images of the students' four years together and messages from students to their parents, friends and teachers. AVID sophomores and juniors assisted with decorations, parking and food service.

After the meal, students received a certificate of completion, an AVID graduation sash, and a teddy bear to decorate their first dorm rooms and remind them of the love and support that had brought them to this day of celebration. Each student took a moment to express appreciation for those who had helped them along the way, evoking many smiles and happy tears.

The evening culminated in dancing, DJ'ed by AVID alumnus Frank Flores. The parents, graduates, and AVID teachers were joined by the AVID Regional Coordinator, Judy Gestring, Woodside Vice Principal Mary Jo Fox, and Principal Linda Common. The evening was unanimously declared a success; plans are already underway for this year's celebration.

- ♦ **For this newsletter incentive**, e-mail Gail Schroeder at gschroed@cccoe.k12.ca.us requesting your incentive by November 24, 2004, and we will mail you a copy of Grammar Smart. The words you use say a lot about you. Grammar makes a lasting impression on friends and teachers, but learning the rules has always been boring. That's why the folks at the Princeton Review created Grammar Smart.

Dates to Remember...

The 2004-2005 Regional Workshop Schedule:

December 2, 2004	9:00-3:00 pm	Heald Conference Center, Concord
December 7, 2004	9:00-3:00 pm	SMCOE
April 21, 2005	9:00-3:00 pm	CCCOE
April 26, 2005	9:00-3:00 pm	SMCOE

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

Other Regional Events:

Princeton Review—SAT Prep		
December 4, 2004	9:00–1:00 pm	Executive Inn, Oakland
Algebra Tutorial		
January 8, 2005	9:00–1:00 pm	CCCOE
Recruitment		
January 10, 2005	4:00–5:30 pm	CCCOE
January 18, 2005	4:30–6:00 pm	SMCOE
Socratic Seminar		
February 5, 2005	9:00–1:00 pm	SMCOE
Write-Off Scoring		
March 5, 2005	9:00–3:00 pm	TBD

