**11th Grade AVID Elective Class**

**Major Concepts/Content:** Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success, and it is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction that supplements and clarifies the college level course work our students encounter their junior year.  This assistance comes through peer and tutor-facilitated study groups, motivational activities, and academic survival skills. The course emphasizes rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion strategies, tutorial inquiry study groups, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, college study skills and test-taking strategies, note-taking, and research.  For example, this semester began with analyzing what AP Language prompts are asking students to write and PSAT practice.

The 11th grade AVID Elective course is the first part in a junior/senior seminar course that focuses on writing and critical thinking expected of first- and second-year college students. This course is organized around the theme of learning from others. Students study, in depth, exceptional leaders, memoirs and careers pathways, as well as examine the effect that these individuals/ careers have had on society. The course requires that students read from a variety of sources so as to better prepare them for their classes and college. Also, each student is required to conduct a research project that is presented in the senior year. In addition to the academic focus of the AVID seminar, there are college-bound activities, methodologies, and tasks that should be undertaken during the junior year to support students as they apply to four-year universities and confirm their postsecondary plans; this includes field trips to Texas colleges and universities.