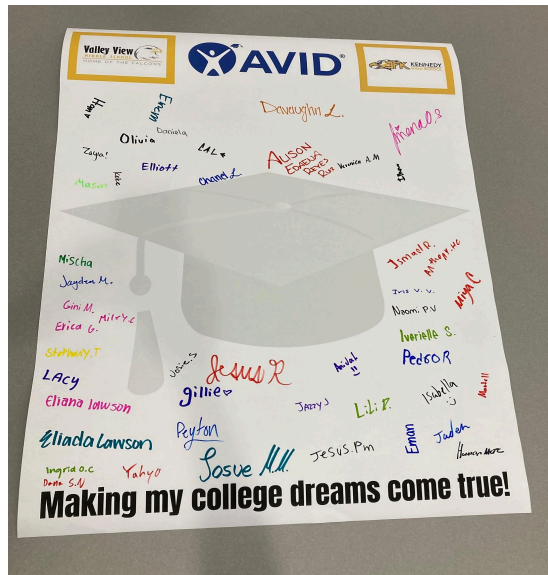


In this month's AVID/SPARCSS Newsletter you'll find information on the VVMS & KHS AVID contract signing celebration; VVMS staff inquiry learning; KHS multi-age academic seminar, Best Buy field trip, college/university pumpkin patch, Socratic seminar, and multi-age academic seminar opportunities; Hillcrest's grade 5 Wordmasters, Continental Math, and grade 4 inquiry project; Fishbowl Open Discussion at Olson Middle; and district-wide AVID/SPARCSS professional development opportunities.

AVID Adventures & SPARCSS Stories

AVID Contract Signing Celebration



More than 50 families of AVID students in grades 7 - 12 gathered in the Kennedy High School Cafeteria to celebrate their commitment to personal growth and academic development through AVID!

VVMS Staff Dives More Deeply Into Inquiry

One way Valley View Middle School teachers are working toward reaching the goals they developed as a part of their School Improvement Plan (SIP) is through focused inquiry instruction using Costa's Levels of Thinking/Questioning. During a recent Staff Academy, teachers reflected on what they learned during workshop week and how their initial work with inquiry went with students. Then, they worked with their department to consider additional inquiry activities/lessons they plan to teach, when they will happen, and identify any further materials or resources they may need. Once those plans have been implemented, teachers will have an opportunity to reflect and share their experiences.

Costa's Planning within Departments

1. Plan: as a department or within dyads, review the resources on your slide (11-23) and decide when and how you will build on students' foundational Costa's knowledge within your content. (Slides 31-35 if you need a refresher)
2. Identify what further support and resources you might need and record that on your slide.
3. Do: Teach the lessons according to plan.
4. Study: Reflect on Grows and Glows from the lessons.
5. Act: November Staff Academy: share out reflection and continue planning departmental inquiry.



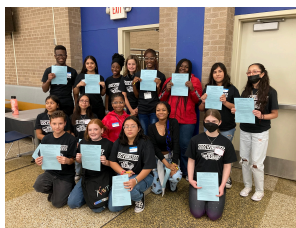
Families and AVID teachers, tutors, and administrators from across the district enjoyed social time with one another, including pizza, games, and AVID BINGO; learned more about AVID and how it works (in general and in Bloomington specifically); reviewed ideas about supporting students; and honored each student as they sign their individual AVID contracts.



OMS Fishbowl Open Discussion

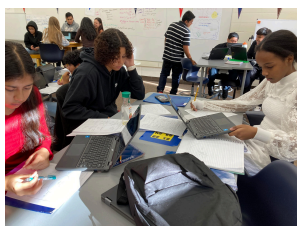
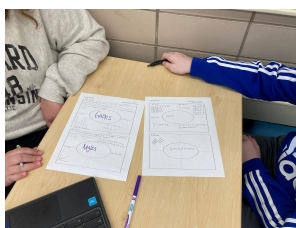
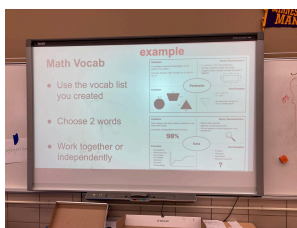
Sixth graders in Lee Gillis's language arts class at Olson Middle School learned a new discussion technique as a way to dive more deeply into concepts from the short realistic fiction stories they'd been reading. Open Discussion is a student-led discussion that encourages each member to participate substantively through a moderator, wing person, and finger contribution method. For more information, view the [Fishbowl Open Discussion presentation](#).





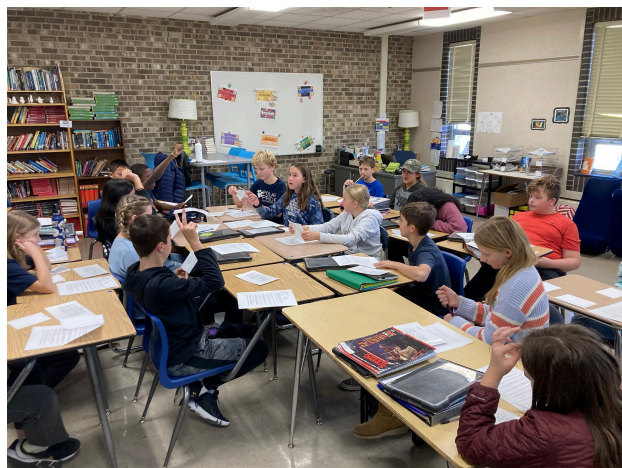
KHS AVID 9 Study Groups

Students in Mrs. Buchanan's AVID 9 class recently worked with other students with the same content teacher. They used a variety of strategies to identify and define key words and concepts and developed two questions about the content. They discussed the questions and practiced their self-advocacy skills by emailing their teacher with anything that remained a point of confusion.



HC Wordmasters

A small group of fifth graders from all three classrooms at Hillcrest are participating in Wordmasters this year. Throughout each of the three competitions, these students will learn 25 vocabulary terms, their definitions, and how they relate to other terms, ideas, and concepts. Students will accomplish this through developing their own definitions, using the words in content-based discussion, developing non-linguistic representations of the words (i.e., images and actions), and playing games.



How do AVID 10 & 11 Students Describe AVID?



Students in AVID 10 and 11 have been working on describing AVID by identifying adjectives that start with A, V, I, and D. The above image is a word cloud created based on their submissions. The slides below contain the vocabulary students identified and the definitions they provided.

Ambitious Having drive and being determined to succeed	Artistic Being creative and having creative ideas	Associated Being involved	Intelligent Having or showing intelligence, especially of a high level	Interested Always on task and always wanting to learn what they learn in class to achieve their goal	Intuitive Instinctive
Astonishing Extremely surprising and impressive	Attentive Paying close attention to something	Dedicated Devoted to a task or purpose	Valiant Brave; courageous	Validated Someone or something that approves against the opposite	Valuable Important
Delicate Being gentle	Dependable Trustworthy and reliable	Dependent Be able to do things on your own	Venerable Honorable, commanding respect	Victorious To be triumphant	Vigilant Careful, observant, watchful



KHS Guest Speaker Series

AVID 9 is welcoming guest speakers into their classroom each week to share their college and career path experiences to show that success can be found on a variety of paths. This week Dinna Wade-Ardley joined the students to present about how she was motivated by a mentor in her life and learned how her advancement was based on her own individual determination.

Accomplished achieve or complete successfully	Accountable described enough to organize or take care of things, being responsible to do things alone or maybe to know how to do them with others.	Achieving successfully bring about or reach a desired objective, level, or result by effort, skill, or courage.	Determined Having made a firm decision and being resolved not to change it.	Developing Growing and becoming more mature, advanced, or elaborate.	Devoted Caring about the thing you're doing & you try your best to do it.
Active Engaging or ready to engage in an activity.	Adaptive Someone who can think to solve a problem and to make their life easier.	Admirable Being a leader and having people looking up to you.	Diligent A person who shows persistence and hardworking effort in doing something.	Disciplined showing a controlled form of behavior or way of working.	Discoverers Someone who finds new thing.
Advanced Too be working at a higher level.	Adventurous It's someone who is willing to experience challenging tasks.	Amazing causing great surprise or wonder; astonishing.	Driven hard working and ambitious.	Imaginative Describes a person with an active mind capable of imagining things, ideas, or solutions that not yet exist in the real world.	Immaculate free from flaws or mistakes; perfect.
Immovable unable to be moved.	Impactful having a major impact or effect.	Important A great significance or value.	Virtuous Showing a persons high moral education and standards.	Vision Seeing your path in your future.	Visionary thinking about or planning the future with imagination.
Impressive Looking through quality.	Incredible Has unique characteristics.	Independent A thing or person who can do things on their own.	Vital Important/necessary.	Vivid Someone having a clear image in mind of what they want/have.	Vocal To be able to use your voice to express your thoughts and be a leader.
Individual To do things on your own.	Insightful Having a deep understanding and a great perspective.	Inspiring Actions affect inspiration on others.	Volunteer A student who undertakes in volunteering for sports and jobs.		

Next time you're at Kennedy High School, you will find these posters hanging on the bulletin board outside the counseling hallway and in the AVID classroom!



KHS AVID to Best Buy

AVID students at Kennedy High School attended a field trip to Best Buy Headquarters. Over the last several years, Best Buy and Bloomington AVID have worked toward developing a partnership that



HC 4th Graders' Animals in National Parks Inquiry Project

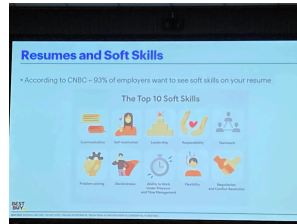
Students in Ms. Katie's class at Hillcrest are working on an inquiry project through researching animals in national parks. To begin, they used curiosity to develop specific questions and then used a variety of text-based resources to answer them. Once they complete their research, students will create presentations to share their learning.



has included student support with a variety of opportunities for learning new skills and opportunities for internships.



During this trip, students toured the campus, listened to a panel of diverse employees share their experiences with college/career pathways, and learned about developing soft and hard skills and how to showcase those through networking and resume writing.



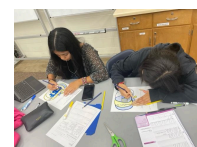
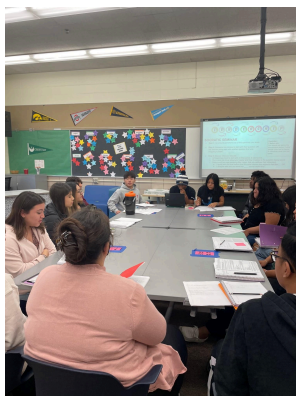
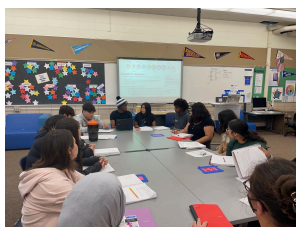
College/University Pumpkin Patch

Kennedy High School AVID 9-11 students are researching colleges/universities in Minnesota and the surrounding states. They will be creating a pumpkin patch to share school options with the rest of the Kennedy students. Next time you're at Kennedy, look for them near the College and Career Center!



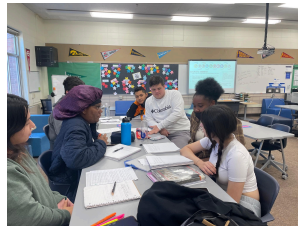
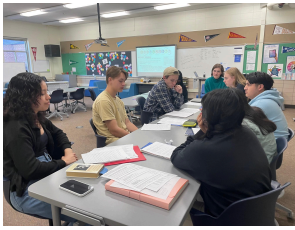
KHS Socratic Seminar

Kennedy High School AVID 10 and 11 students have been exploring the topic of leadership during the months of September and October. They wrote their own higher-level questions about leadership and participated in a Socratic seminar during class. They will use this information to help them decide if the memoir they read in the past month was about a person who could be considered a leader.

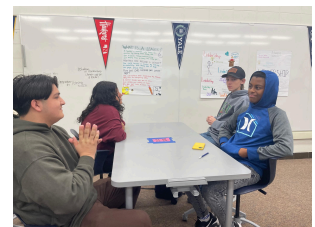
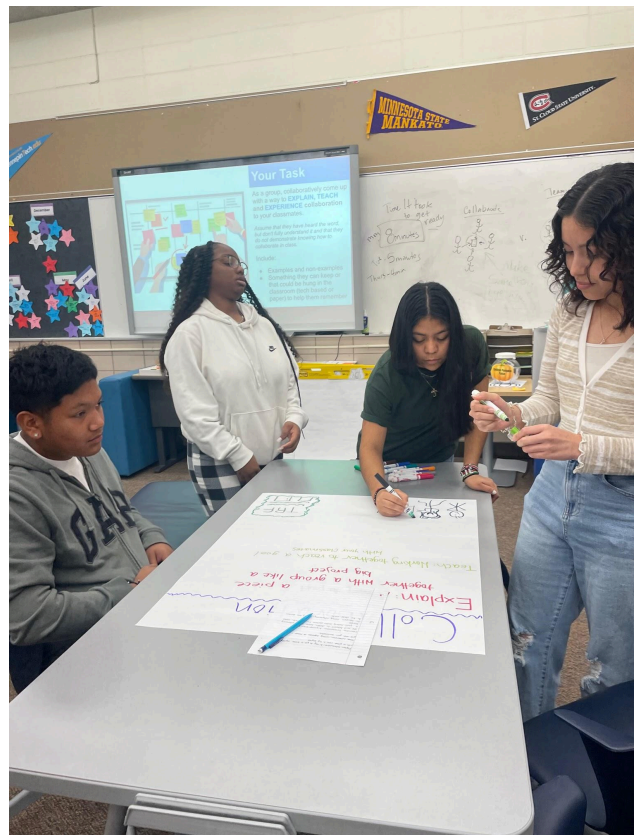


KHS AVID 9-11 Academic Seminar

Over the course of the year, AVID 9-11 students will come together during academic seminar to meet and discuss a variety of topics and skills that are important for all AVID students. During the



first seminar session, which focused on the skill of collaboration, students got to know each other through a few discussion questions, learned about the differences between collaboration and teamwork, and collaborated in multi-level groups to create a poster that teaches others how to collaborate.



Teacher/Administrator Opportunities

My role with AVID/SPARCSS in the district is to support all teachers as they help students develop and nurture the strategies & skills they need to be successful. Part of how I do this is:

- providing resources/materials
- helping facilitate any learning activities
- working with small groups or individuals
- observing
- reading aloud
- chaperoning parties and field trips
- co-planning/co-teaching lessons
- anything else!

Send me a chat or email and let's make a plan!

~Kelly Killorn, kkillorn@isd271.org

Professional Development

Each Fall AVID Staff provide **FREE** workshops for various audiences. During the Fall Semester, all workshops will be **offered virtually**.

Administrator/Building Leader Opportunities			
11/2/22	10AM-2PM CT	New District or Building Leaders No AVID Training*	Critical Elements 1
11/16/22	10AM-2PM CT	New Leaders SOME AVID background*	Critical Elements 2
<i>Note: These events are for new leaders with a focus on district-level leadership. These events can be found under "District Leader Events." Participants do not need to take Critical Elements 1 to enroll in Critical Elements 2. However, some AVID background knowledge is assumed in Critical Elements 2.</i>			

Teacher Opportunities	
6-12: Inquiry - Three Things You Can Do Right Now	
10/20/22: 3:30 - 5:30PM 11/1/22: 12 - 2PM 11/17/22: 5:30 - 7:30PM	
K-12: Schoolwide Academic Language and Literacy	
10/18/22: 5:30 - 7:30PM	

10/27/22: 12 - 2PM
11/9/22: 5:30 - 7:30PM

K-12: WICOR to Increase Rigor

10/26/22: 5:30 - 7:30PM
11/8/22: 3 - 5PM
12/1/22: 3:30 - 5:30PM

AVID Site Coordinator and Elective Teacher Opportunities

11/29/22	2:30-3:30PM OR 4:30-5:30PM	Site Coordinators	Fall Site Coordinator Chat 2
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AVID Elective Teacher Tutorial Training

Whether you are a brand new AVID Elective Teacher or not, the Tutorial workshop will provide participants focused learning and discussion around the Tutorial process.

10/19/22: 6 - 8PM
11/2/22: 1:30 - 3:30PM
11/10/22: 6:30 - 8:30PM

To register go to my.avid.org→Event Registration→Register myself (or someone else) for an event→Event Type will vary depending on the audience (District Director Events, District Leader Events, Educators Events, Principal Event, Site Coordinator/AVID Elective Teacher Events)