

In this month's AVID/SPARCSS Newsletter you'll find information on AVID By the Numbers, AVID 10 Scholars, KHS AVID Showcase, PGP work at KHS, Valley Fair visit to KHS, KHS Senior Signing Day, KHS life skills presentations, KHS community service trip to VVE, KHS trip to Best Buy, VVM AVID 8 Goals presentations, OMS SPARCSS kick-off, cross-team collaboration at OMS, note-taking during Flex Math at IM, VVE's trips to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and the Vocabulary Paint Chips Strategy.

AVID & SPARCSS By the Numbers

8	...years AVID has been implemented in Bloomington
1	...year SPARCSS has been implemented in Bloomington
3817	...students affected by AVID's and SPARCSS's school-wide implementation during the 2018-2019 school year, grades 4 - 12 at Indian Mounds Elementary, Olson Elementary, Valley View Elementary, Olson Middle, Valley View Middle, and Kennedy High Schools
150	...AVID elective students at Valley View Middle and Kennedy High Schools during the 2018-2019 school year
369	...total AVID and SPARCSS trainings attended by 166 Bloomington teachers, administrators, and staff over the last eight years
99%	...Bloomington AVID seniors who graduated on time and were accepted to college (graduating classes of 2016 - 2019)

AVID Adventures & SPARCSS Stories

Congratulations to the Following AVID 10 Scholars!



Julysa Bacho has been accepted to attend Minnesota Business Venture's (MBV) summer camp at St. John's University.

MBV is a week-long residential summer camp. Students work in teams on projects, hear from guest speakers, participate in mock interviews and learn how to invest their money. Students spend a week on a college campus.



Jonaldy Torres-Hernandez is one of 24 students accepted to the National Park Teen Ambassador program at Voyageurs National Park.

Each summer, the program introduces at least twenty Minnesota high school students to camping, hiking, paddling, and environmental stewardship through adventures in Voyageurs National Park and along the Mississippi River.

The program seeks to empower future environmental champions in diverse communities and engage youth as Ambassadors to both the Park Service and the public. We seek to inspire Teen Ambassadors to share the Voyageurs story with their community and peers, and to become lifelong conservationists.



Angelica Penafort Galan has been accepted to the Pre-College Residential Experience at Macalester College. Here is a description of the program:

“Pre@Mac is a four-day experience immersing you in the language of college. We’ll introduce students to everything they need to know about finding and applying to the perfect school. Living on campus, just like a Mac student, students will:

- Discover the different kinds of colleges and universities out there, from big state schools to liberal arts colleges like Macalester
- Learn how schools like Mac use financial aid to make college more affordable
- Experience life as a college student—sleeping in Mac’s residence halls, dining at Café Mac, and exploring our campus and neighborhood
- Sample real classes taught by Macalester professors
- Connect with other students on the college journey just like

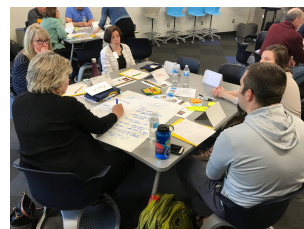
you”

KHS AVID Showcase



Kennedy High School hosted its first ever AVID Showcase! During the morning, participants from across the district heard from current AVID students, KHS AVID graduates in their second and third years of college, AVID elective teachers and content area teachers, and saw several classes using AVID strategies, including the AVID Elective, science, social studies, and an interdisciplinary course.





Participants reflected on their experience and responded with the following thoughts on their new learnings about AVID:

“I loved seeing how AVID supports students academically, emotionally, and for the future.”

“AVID strategies deepen understanding of discipline. [They] help students think deeply about what they are learning.”

“AVID directly supports college and career readiness for students by providing organizational skills and advocacy skills instruction.”

“AVID helps students reach their full potential.”

“It was great to see the engagement of non-AVID teachers in the building!”

“AVID provides a consistent teaching method that is highly successful for student learning.”

“I got some great schoolwide implementation ideas!”

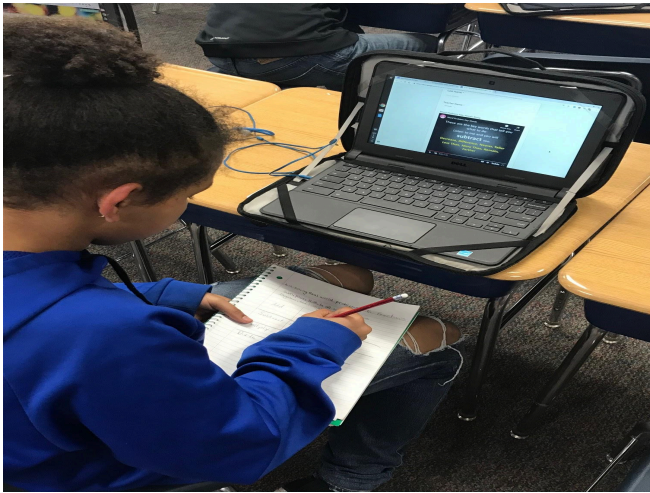
“I didn’t know Kennedy has specific AVID classes AND strategies incorporated school-wide!”

Flex Math Note-Taking

Fifth grade students have been learning math at their own pace at Indian Mounds. Part of this means using AVID strategies for taking notes during instructional videos and resources presented.

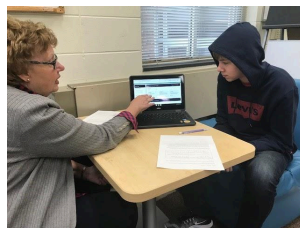
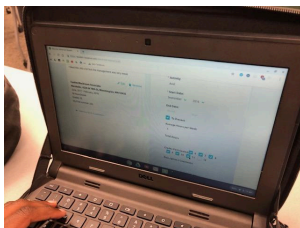
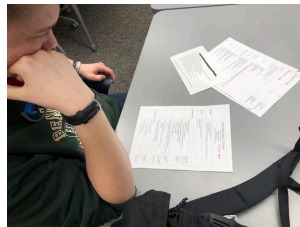
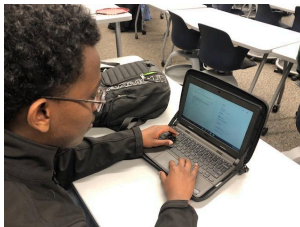
OMS SPARCSS Elective Celebration

Students, parents, and members of Olson Middle School’s SPARCSS site team enjoyed a pancake breakfast to celebrate students’ acceptance into the SPARCSS Elective class for the 19-20 school year. Students were invited to accept a certificate and receive a SPARCSS t-shirt.



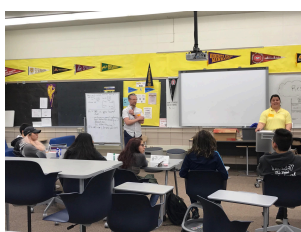
KHS AVID 10 and 11 PGP Activities

Students in Kristel Lehner's AVID 10 and Paul Garlock's AVID 11 completed PGP activities tied with Naviance recently. AVID 10 focused on learning about careers, while AVID 11 students developed their resumes.



Valley Fair Visits KHS AVID

Representatives from Valley Fair spoke with AVID 9-12 students about different opportunities they offer high school students, including summer jobs and internships. They did some team-building activities, an interest inventory, and learned about how they might be a part of the Valley Fair team.



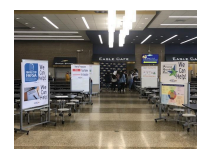
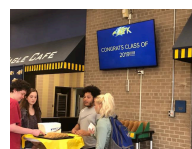
KHS AVID 12 Life Skill Presentations

Students in Kennedy High School's AVID 12 class researched and gave three presentations over the course of the trimester on social, academic, professional, and life skills. Most recently, they used the new collaboration stations for their life skills presentations. First, they chose a life skill such as public speaking, speaking with confidence, professional work ethic, and social health. They developed a 5-10 minute presentation including key components, importance of the skill, an activity to practice the skill, and a quiz to check audience understanding.



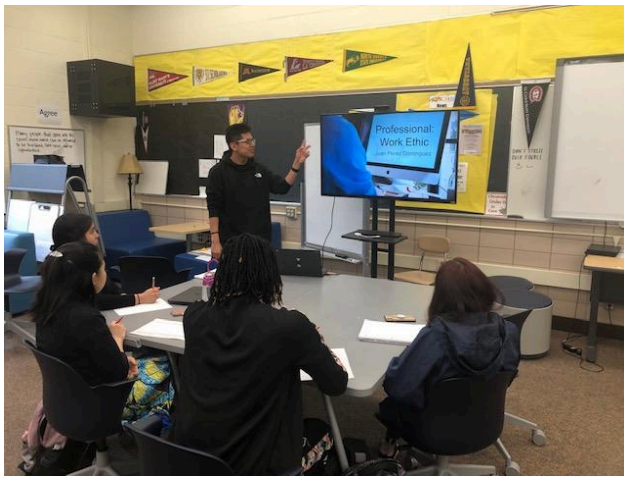
KHS Senior Signing Day

Senior Signing Day (#ihaveaplan) is a way for seniors at Kennedy High School to celebrate their Personal Growth Plan (PGP) work. Students work on their PGPs to help them develop a plan for after high school. All plans were celebrated, whether they are entering the workforce or going to college.



Cross-Team Collaboration to Learn about FLI

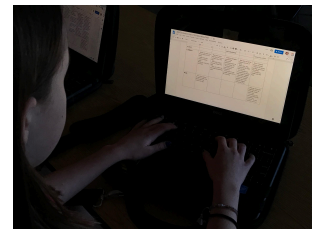
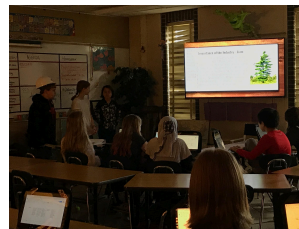
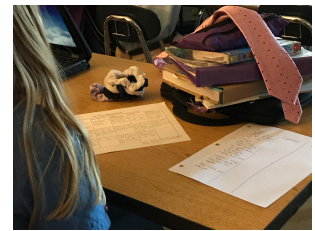
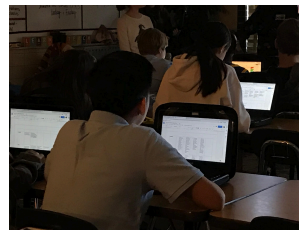
Students in Ms. Nelson's and Ms. Tapper's social studies classes had the opportunity to collaborate with one another, across the two 6th grade teams,



during a recent unit on flour, lumber, and iron (FLI). The culmination of this project was a student-developed presentation during which the audience took notes over on resource, specifically noting information regarding natural resources, people, and machines.



The AVID classroom will have two collaboration stations next year for small presentations, group work that requires large screen/research online, and more; the possibilities are endless!

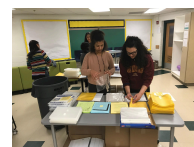


VVM AVID 8 Goals Celebration

AVID 8th graders at Valley View Middle School presented slideshows sharing their short-, mid-, and long-range goals for the year with parents, teachers, staff, and administrators from across the district. This is an annual event students look forward to each year, as it showcases all the hard work they've done as they prepare for high school.



KHS to VVE for Community Service





KHS AVID to Best Buy

Best Buy Corporate Headquarters invited Kennedy AVID Students to spend the morning with them. Students were able to tour the building, network with people in a variety of roles at Best Buy, listen to a panel of speakers, and participate in a resume-writing workshop.



Students from Kennedy High School's AVID Leadership team provided community service for Valley View Elementary staff by creating Cheetah Binders for all students in grades K-4 for the upcoming school year! Each grade level has a Cheetah Binder that students take home. Inside are a variety of informational sheets, a folder for important updates, and a pocket for books.

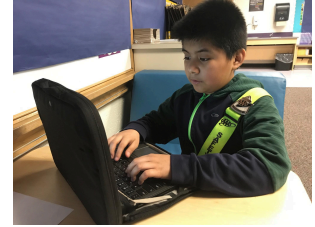


Afterward, the high school students visited 5th grade classrooms to talk about AVID, their middle school experiences, high school experiences, and what they hope to do when they graduate.

IM 5th Graders Write Persuasive Letters

Students in Ms. Sundt's writing classes are writing persuasive letters. They have gone through the complete writing process from brainstorming through editing and revision, and will begin sending the letters soon. Some students wrote to their parents requesting items like gaming consoles and pets, while others wrote to building leaders (Principal Joan Maland) and technology giants (Apple and Samsung). All of their letters contained compelling reasons to persuade the

intended audience to take action!



VVE Grades 4 and 5 to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

As a part of an ongoing relationship with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, students from Valley View Elementary had many opportunities to learn, both at VVE and at the refuge. Recently students in 4th grade learned about vertebrates and invertebrates and were able to look at some up close at the refuge's large pond and under microscopes back at the building. The 5th graders learned about fish and had a chance to practice their angler skills at Bass Ponds!



AVID/SPARCSS Instructional Strategy of the Month

Vocabulary Paint Chips



In the Vocabulary Paint Chips strategy, students add each vocabulary term to one shade of a paint chip, then add different versions of the word as well as synonyms to the other shades. This strategy allows students to explore different word parts and how affixes change the meanings and parts of speech of words.