

Course Description

9th Grade AVID Elective Class

2019-2020

Teacher: Jennifer Hesse

Room: P2 **Email:** jhesse@everettsd.org

Website: <https://www.everettsd.org/jhs-jhesse> or link from the JHS Website

Major Concepts/Content: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success and is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, 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.

Grading: Based on AVID Standards

(percentages subject to change based on class needs and student input)

25%-Tutorials & Inquiry

20% - Reading & Writing

15%- Character Development

20%-Organization & College Preparedness

20% - Communication & Collaboration

I use a 4-point, standards-based grading system and will determine final grades based on AVID standards. I will grade individual assignments on the following scale, which is increasingly utilized by Jackson's English and Math departments, and overall grades will be determined by rounding to the nearest hundredth. It is important to note that while this scale deals in whole numbers, overall grades will likely fall into categories between these in order to accurately measure proficiency in the assessed standards. For example, while a "C+" is not present on this list, this score can be earned if the average score a student receives on assignments throughout the semester is between "Approaching" and "Proficient" in the given standards.

- 4 A (Exemplary: above standard based on rubric for assignment)
- 3 B (Proficient: meets standard according to assignment rubric)
- 2 D (Approaching: below standard according to assignment rubric)
- 1 F (Incomplete: Well below standard according to assignment rubric)
- 0 F (Missing assignment: unable to assess proficiency level according to assignment rubric)

Letter / Point Scale	
A 3.6 - 4	D+ 1.5-1.9
B+ 3.5	D 1-1.45
B 3 – 3.45	F 0 -.9
C+ 2.5-2.9	
C 2-2.45	

Classroom Norms

Will be created by the students and posted in the classroom.

Classroom Rules

PLAGIARISM Much of your learning in this class will arise through group discussions, shared work, and collaboration with classmates. I encourage this! I do not, however, tolerate plagiarism. Ensure that all work is your own work, not cut and pasted from the internet or other students. If information is used from other sources, they must be properly cited.

FOOD AND DRINK **This classroom is a nut-free environment.** Other food is allowed. If food or drink is consumed at the tables, you must clean up after yourself.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be put away during class time unless use is directed by teacher. Referrals will be given for unauthorized use as per the district policy.

ABSENCES What you can do if you are absent to keep yourself on track:

- Email the teacher for missing work.
- Ask a classmate what we did and update yourself as best as you can. Take down information; discuss what was learned, etc.

BATHROOM USE AND TARDIES You are expected to be in class on time and ready to work. If you are tardy, please check in and quietly take your seat. If you need to use the restroom, trade me your phone for the pass. You will not be given permission to leave the first or last 10 minutes of class as per the school policy. If tardiness or excessive bathroom use becomes a pattern, the privilege may be suspended.

Please read the JHS STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. This class will follow all Jackson High School rules and regulations. Refer to your student handbook.

Important note: this syllabus (minus some minor changes) was used by this year's sophomore AVID instructor, Gail Walters. It is helpful to know that similar expectations will likely follow throughout your time in AVID. 9th grade is a great time to become familiar with expectations!