

one program, 5 stories

HELPING HAND Jesse Hulet '23 collaborates with William Besonen '23 and Hayden Weyer '23. Hulet has been an AVID student since ninth grade; the friends and skills gained keep him coming back year after year. "It's more or less for people who may or may not have a certain idea of what they want to do. People who are determined to go to college, it's very helpful." Hulet said. *Photo by Halle Nichols*



MOMENTOUS SHARING Abigail Seestrom '23 works with Aria Sturm '23 to problem solve. Seestrom found comfort within the program. "Last year, we had one [discussion] where we talked about ourselves and how we wanted to grow as an AVID class and there were some tears shed. But it was the moment and bonding moment for our class. So I think that is the most memorable." Seestrom said. *Photo by Halle Nichols*



TOTALLY TUTORIALS Caleb Crawford '25 completes an AVID skill building activity with Tyson Dvorak '25. Crawford used his second year in the program to prepare for the rigors of college life, lessons bringing him closer to college readiness. "It's actually fun being in AVID." Crawford said. "[My favorite part is] doing tutorials and helping others understand the questions that they have and the classes." *Photo by Matthew Scherber*



TIDYING UP Ansleigh Benzer '26 adamantly solves an issue. Since 7th grade, she has been thankful for the encouragement of her parents and what she's learned in AVID, helping her in all aspects of her life, especially when it comes to learning specific skills. "Organization is a big part of it, keeping everything in line, keeping everything ready and organized and knowing where and how to find it," Benzer said. *Photo by Ruth Green*



CHANGE OF HEART Morgen Horvath '25 focuses her attention on notes during class. Horvath has gained confidence due to AVID helping her figure out where she wants to go in the future. "Mankato was one of the colleges we went to last year and it affected me because I always wanted to go out of state for college," Horvath said. "But when I first went to Mankato, I fell in love with the college." *Photo by Elijah Zumbusch*



Cinthia Caballero Rodriguez '23 and Destiny LaFave '23 concentrate and listen to the directions in class. *Photo by Halle Nichols*

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Seeing growth within the program

Walking up those concrete steps feels surreal, thoughts of everything it took to get to this point finally becomes worth it as a doorway comes into view. A doorway to the future. The doorway to college.

AVID is extra preparation for students looking to have a more successful college career by teaching good study habits and tips to help with the application process. Cinthia Caballero Rodriguez '23 has been a part of the AVID program since eighth grade. As the only person in her family on the road to college, it's helped prepare her for upcoming challenges as a college student.

"I think about what my future can be like and what I could do for my family," Caballero Rodriguez said. "I feel more pressure, because my family's always expecting me to go to college. But I'm a little excited."

College isn't the only focus in AVID classes, but also current schooling as they collaborate with classmates to form conclusions for questions they might have. Madison Roushar '24 has built strong friendships within the AVID program that keep her coming back each year.

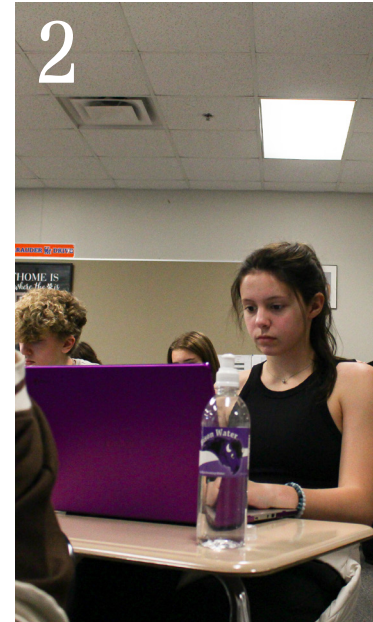
"The class is based off of note-taking, and helping you get better in your classes. We do these things called tutorials. They help you figure out a problem that you're struggling with," Roushar said. "When we do those tutorials, it's good to ask your teacher questions, but instead of asking my teacher every time I have a question, I can just ask a classmate and they'll probably know the answer."

A huge theme throughout the program is for any student willing to put effort into their learning, regardless of traditional academic capabilities. Arria Bell '25 benefits from the AVID program by using a look into the future to ensure she's ready for what's to come.

"I was hoping [fellow students] knew that it wasn't just a smart people class. It's more of like a helpful class for college, because it prepares you for stuff like that," Bell said. "So you know what you're doing when you get to college, it's not just, 'oh, yeah, you're smart. You can be in this class.'"

Though not many are aware of the opportunities provided by the AVID program, its members are reaping the benefits. By teaching students skills that can be used for the rest of their lives such as problem solving, and giving them the responsibility when it comes to their learning they are able to add value to it and truly gain understanding of their work.

Story by Halle Nichols



stepping up students take on ways to improve themselves

1. STRATEGIC STUDYING Erika Torres Gutierrez '26 intensely looks over her focused notes. In her second year of AVID, Torres Gutierrez felt the differences between AVID and her other classes. "It's very different because we all know what's expected with the AVID curriculum," Torres Gutierrez said. "It's honestly a good environment that makes you want to stay there." *Photo by Elijah Zumbusch*

2. POSSIBILITY PRODUCTION Adalee Anderson '26 thoroughly completes assignments. Anderson joined AVID to broaden the horizon of her future. "I'd say there's a lot of opportunities," Anderson said. "You get big scholarships [and] I heard you get a silver cord at graduation if you [complete] four years. I thought that sounded cool." *Photo by Ruth Green*

3. STRESS TO IMPRESS Using AVID skills, Madison Roushar '24 studies her chemistry notes. Roushar has been an AVID student since seventh grade and learned study skills and group problem-solving. "It's made me realize that I need to start looking at colleges and that I need to start getting prepared for financial stuff," Roushar said. "At times, it adds more stress, but it's comforting to know what I need to do." *Photo by Halle Nichols*

"We're learning the skills that we need to know how to do in college."
Abigail Seestrom '23

