

# AVID

Mrs. L. Parks-Johnson

## T. W. Josey High School

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Augusta, GA 30901  
(706)737-7360

### Prerequisite(s):

### Course Description:

The AVID class has two goals: the first, to prepare students for college and university entrance requirements, and the second, to ready students for the rigors of college and university work. In other words, we want to help you jump through the hoops necessary for college entrance and help you to become the kind of student who will excel once you get there. This course offers a challenging curriculum that exposes students to college-level reading and writing assignments in an attempt to develop students' academic skills. In addition to academic skill development, you will learn about the college/university system, conduct research projects, and interact with college tutors. It is important to note that good grades, a competitive GPA, and maintaining an organized binder is only part of the AVID commitment; AVID students are also encouraged to get involved in school leadership, athletics, performing arts, clubs, and other extra-curricular activities. Getting involved in the school and local community will shape you into responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society--another goal of the AVID class.

### Course Materials: (Needed Daily)

- Course Textbook
- Three-Ring Binder
- Pens or Pencils (Use blue or black pen or pencil for all work turned in for a grade. Twenty points will be deducted for work done in any other color.)

### Course Policies:

#### *Class Rules*

Rules and Regulations outlined in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook will be directly and accurately adhered to. I believe in order to develop a classroom in which all students have the opportunity to be successful we must work together; therefore, I ask that all students to

1. Be on Time
2. Be Prepared
3. Be Attentive
4. Be Respectful

#### *Cell Phone Policy*

Cell phones may not be brought into the school building or used on campus during regular school hours. Phones which are taken when a student fails to follow this policy shall be promptly labeled with the owner's name, the serial number; the name of the school, and the date the beeper and/or phone was confiscated. In the event that a phone is taken in accordance with this policy and is subsequently lost while in the school's possession, neither the school nor the system will be responsible for such loss.

## Attendance

Attendance in this class is expected. You should come prepared to discuss the materials assigned and to participate in class discussion. According to the attendance policy in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook “students who are absent from school are required to bring a written excuse for the absence their first day back at school. You are absent if you: miss the entire class period or are tardy for more than 20 minutes. An absence is either excused or unexcused.”

- **Excused Absence:** Students who miss assignments or tests due to an excused absence shall be allowed to make up such assignments or tests. It shall be the student's responsibility to get the make-up work from the teacher(s) and complete the work within one week after returning to school.
- **Unexcused Absence:** Students, who miss assignments or tests due to an unexcused absence may in the sound discretion of the principal or designee, be given the opportunity to make up work.

## Grading Policies

Academics Honesty is expected in this class; therefore, anyone caught violating this rule will receive a zero. Students must maintain a GPA of a 70 or better to pass this course. To assist in this matter major test will be announced at least one week in advance. If a student misses an assignments or tests, he or she will have five days to make up the work. A zero will be recorded if the work is not made up within a five day period. Listed below are the elements students will be graded on

Classwork/ Homework	25%
Notebook	25%
Projects/ Participation/ Activities	15%
Test/ Quiz	35%

## Course Content

There are certain activities you should expect to participate in consistently throughout the year. They are designed to support you in your classes and help you achieve success. They are:

1. **Tutorials --** Tutorials are a collaborative group activity where you will follow a process to give and receive help for your core content classes. Expect to participate in Tutorials every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year. College tutors will be available to support your learning throughout the school year.
2. **Binder Checks --** every 2-3 weeks using a rubric that evaluates the Focused Note-taking/Learning Logs from your classes, completion of agenda, and overall binder organization will grade your binder. If you don't get your binder graded on the day of binder checks, it is your responsibility to have it graded by the tutors on the next tutorial day...otherwise you will receive a zero in the grade book.
3. **Socratic Seminar/Structured Discussions --** Structured discussions such as Socratic Seminar and Philosophical Chairs will be utilized throughout the year to help you learn to interact with texts you are reading and the ideas they bring to the surface. You will learn to dig in to an author's meaning, listen for understanding to your classmates, and express your own ideas with clarity.
4. **Focused Note-taking --** You will learn to take and use Focused Note-taking as a tool for recording and interacting with various texts and lecture material in a Cornell format. By the end of the school year, you are expected to develop your own "style" while maintaining the Focused Note-taking system.
5. **Critical Reading of Texts --** You will develop the ability to read, discuss, and write about challenging texts in order to prepare you for the rigors of academic environments. In AVID this year, students will mark texts, account for key terms and claims made by authors in expository texts, and use "Pausing to Connect" and "Writing in the Margins" as tools for unlocking the meaning of challenging texts!

6. Writing—You will develop your writing skills through different types of writing. Sentence combining, structure, organization, and word choice will be taught over the course of the years. It is important for you to be a clear writer in order to apply for scholarships and pass your classes. Clear communication skills are a must when you are creating your brand.

Students: Please read the course syllabus and share it with your parents. Then you and your parents should sign this sheet. Please return this portion of the sheet.

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I have read the policies and expectations for the World History class and understand them. If I choose not to meet these expectations, I am willing to accept the consequences.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: If you have an email address or telephone number you would like the teacher to use to communicate with you about your child's progress, please include it here:

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Comments/Concerns: