

AVID January/February Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Second semester of the 2017-18 school year is off to a busy start for the AVID program. Students are meeting with their counselor, Mrs. Gwen Lopez, to pick courses for next school year and seniors are gearing up to make their final decision on a college for next year. The start of the new semester is a great time for students to get a fresh start in their classes. Students should not be waiting until they start to struggle in a class to go in for extra help or seek out a peer tutor. Teachers and tutors are available at all times in the day to make sure students do not fall behind early in the semester. Students can seek help during lunch in the Study Cafe or Math Lab, and peer tutors are available before and after school. In addition, teachers from each subject are available in the Media Center periods 1-3 and 8. Attendance is also extremely important for student success. It may be tempting to extend spring break by a few days, take a vacation during the winter months, or stay home when it is cold, but each day of missed instruction adds up to big deficits in a student's learning and achievement. Research shows students who miss 10 percent of school, or two days per month, show negative academic progress.

Upcoming Dates to Know

February 16th: Institute Day

February 19th: No School-
President's Day

March 6th: AVID Family Night for
Juniors and Seniors

March 8th and 9th: Parent-teacher
conferences

STUDENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

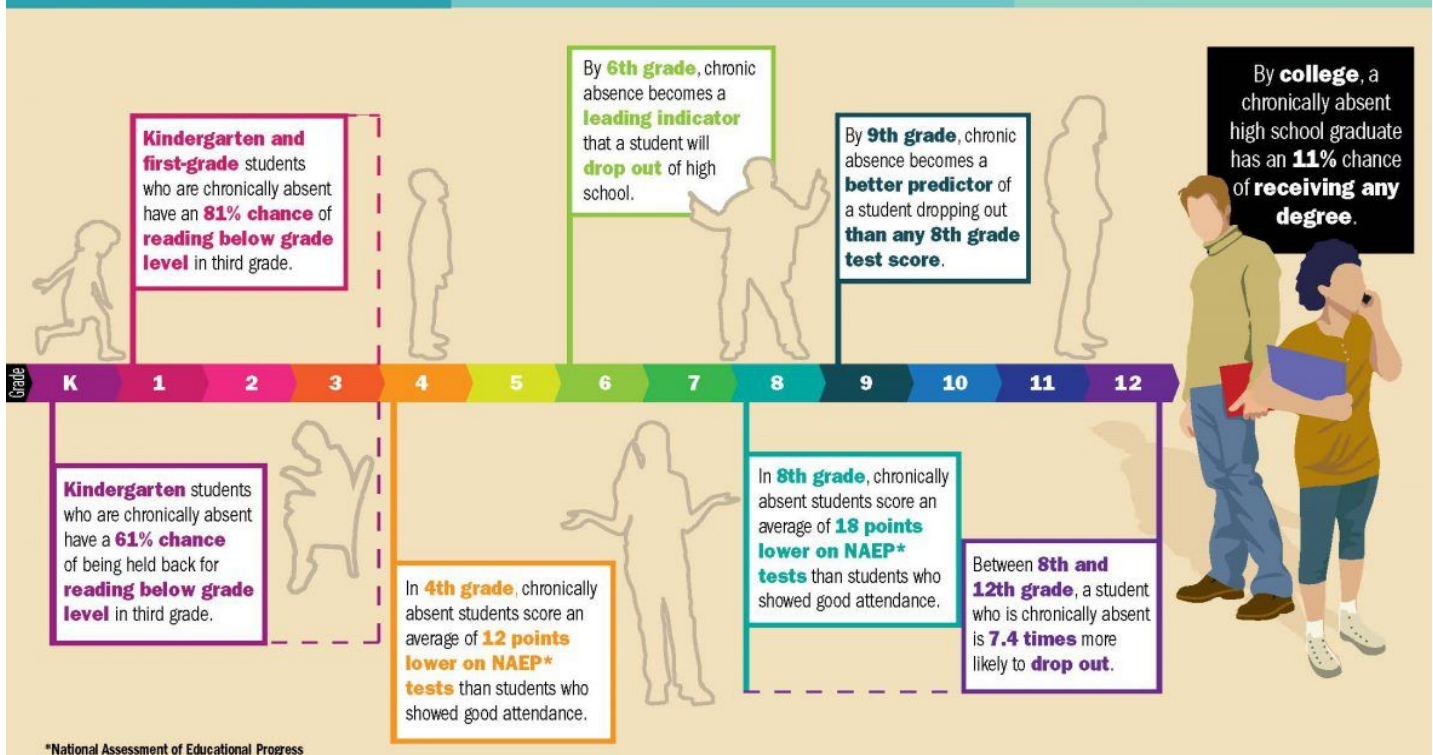
There are an estimated 5-7.5 million students in the United States who are chronically absent from school.

Chronic absenteeism hurts students in a variety of ways as they progress through their school career, starting with kindergarten.

DEFINITIONS:

Chronic Absence - Missing 2 days each month, totaling 18 days, equals 10% of the school year

Good Attendance - Missing 9 days or less in a school year (5%)



Where can my student prepare for the SAT/ACT?

During Junior year, AVID students do test prep every Wednesday until the SAT test on April 10th. However, we recommend students continue to prepare outside of class during their Junior year. Here are some resources available at MHS



- **The MHS Literacy Center and Math Lab**

Available free to students, the Literacy Center and Math Lab will offer one hour sessions before and after school in February and March to help students better understand the structure of the SAT. These sessions will help students get to know the reading, writing/language and math sections of the SAT.

Contact: hbabowice@d120.org or agrig@d120.org

- **Naviance**

An online source available free to students; every MHS student can access personalized SAT Test prep through their Naviance account. Options include creating a study plan, test prep games, open discussions, specific lessons, flashcards, practice questions, practice tests, and more. Prep is personalized based on the upcoming test date and prior results. Students simply need to log in to their Naviance account through the link on d120.org and click the “Naviance Test Prep” link on the left hand side of the screen.

Contact: Your student’s counselor or the CCRC (B103)

- **Online Resources**

- khanacademy.org/sat: Link to your College Board account to receive personalized test prep resources and feedback for free!
- collegeboard.org, SAT practice tests: 6 free full-length online practice tests

College Corner

What is a financial aid award letter? How do I know which college is giving us the best deal?

- After you submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you’ll receive a financial aid award letter in the mail from each school to which you’ve been accepted. Your letters will outline how much the school will cost and what kind of financial aid package you’ll receive for one year. All financial aid award letters don’t look the same, but they contain the same general information.
 - Grants
 - Scholarships
 - Work-study
 - Federal student loans
 - **Cost of attendance (COA)**, which is an estimate of what you can expect to pay for tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and personal expenses for one year.
 - **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**, which is an index number that colleges use to determine financial aid eligibility.
- Comparing your award letter
 - Use the link below to compare award letters from multiple schools
<http://www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml>
- Calculating student loan payments
 - Use the link below to estimate your student loan payments on a regular repayment schedule
<http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/paying/standardcalculator.cfm>

Interested in learning more about financial aid award letters? Come to the AVID senior parent night on March 6th!