

THE WESTERNER

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE AVID WESTERN DIVISION



A Word from the AVID Western Division Director...

Hello and welcome to the start of another exciting year in AVID!

The Western Division Team and I enjoyed meeting and working with 3,500 participants from across the Division who attended Summer Institutes this past summer. We are looking forward to providing all of our schools with a variety of quality support and training activities throughout the year. Our team is excited to serve students and staff in 678 schools across the Division.

As I reflect on the events of last year and this summer, I am reminded of the enormous impact we individually have each and every day in shaping our students' futures. It is such a blessing to be a part of a systemic college readiness model that continues to prepare many thousands of students for college success, and that provides quality training and support for teachers and administrators to guide our students on their journey.

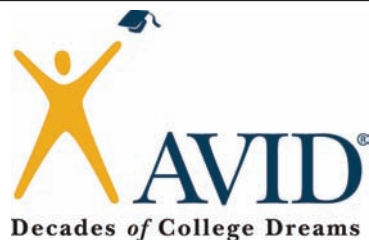
AVID students remind us through their words of hope and understanding what a life changing force AVID truly is. As one student so wonderfully expressed during a recent visit to an AVID classroom: "I was lost and struggling; walking through life with no vision, no hope. AVID became my lifeline connecting me to hope and the belief that I could and would succeed."

I wish for all of you a year of fulfillment in your work, and great joy and success with your students. My best to you as you start a new year, and I hope to meet many of you as I travel across the Division.

Regards,

Karen

Karen Lewis
Western Division Director



**AVID's mission is to close the
achievement gap by preparing all
students for college readiness and
success in a global society.**

RATCHET UP!

The Online Streamline: Managing the Certification Binder

By Kristin Lockwood,

AVID Elective Tacher and Coordinator,

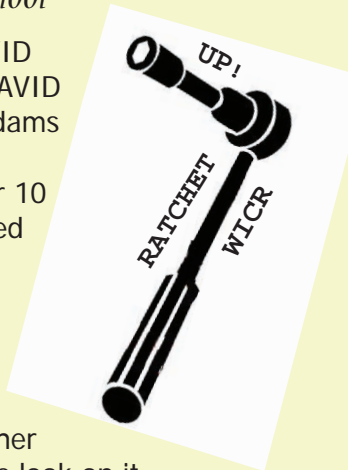
Adams City Middle School

I have been an AVID teacher and the AVID coordinator at Adams City Middle School in Commerce City, CO for 10 years. I recently noticed our AVID Certification binder has a weight problem. It holds all the history of our ten year program in the Marlon Brando Godfather of all binders. Students look on it with both awe and terror. At its heaviest, during our demonstration visits, the old binder topped out at 8 inches thick and at least 40 lbs. I had to use my mother's old red flyer wagon to transport it from meeting to meeting and room to room. We constantly worried about the health of its three rings. They threatened to burst open every time we worked with the binder.

I used to have nightmares that a student would knock it off its perch in my classroom. Then one day it happened; two students came in pushing and horsing around, and the binder went flying. I watched in horror as it fell in slow motion, rings opening and pages vomiting all over the floor. I knew in that moment that it was time for a major change. Time to retire the binder, and move into the 21st Century.

I took to the computer.

AVID had been pushing electronic documentation for a while now. In fact, the new certification document had places for us to upload our evidence and



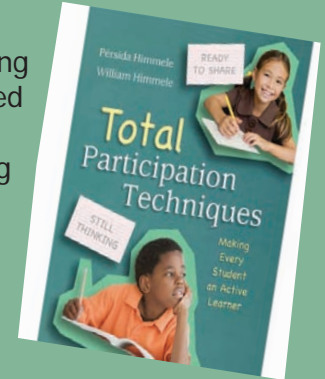
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Book Recommendation....

Book Review: Total Participation Techniques: Making Every Student an Active Learner

(Persida Himmele and William Himmele, ASCD, 2011)

TPTs are structured strategies for assuring students are engaged in active participation and cognitive development during any lesson in a classroom. This book covers the why and how of using these many techniques, many of which AVID teachers will recognize, such as "Think, Pair, Share," "Quick Writes," and "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down." The unique thing about this easy read is that the authors also show how to assure higher order thinking when using these engagement techniques.



The book begins with the why there is a need for more engaging classrooms. One study shows that the number one reason students drop out of school is boredom. A little over 30% of all students do not complete high school in this country. Other research cited indicates that "a one-year increase in average year of schooling reduces murder and assault by 30%, motor vehicle theft by 20%, arson by 13%, and burglary by 6%." In addition, "A dropout is more than eight times as likely to be in prison...and the less education that inmates have the more likely they are to return to prison." This is certainly a call to create more engaging, active classrooms.

Six chapters in the book outline many ideas for creating classrooms where students are totally participating in active learning. In each chapter classroom teachers are cited regarding their use of the strategies.

While there may not be a great deal new for our AVID teachers, the higher order thinking connection and some new twists on these techniques make it a worthwhile read.



Update from Hawai'i

By Cherilyn Inouye
AVID Hawai'i State Director

From August 24 to September 1, the AVID Elective Teachers and Coordinators on Oahu, Hawai'i Island, Kauai, and Maui came together to share best practices in our first round of AVID Secondary Professional Learning Communities. I enjoyed reconnecting with the teachers and coordinators that I met at Summer Institute and meeting many more of our AVID educators for the first time. Together, we experienced a jam-packed day of eating (our Hawai'i folks always bring lots of snacks!), exchanging ideas, highlighting successes, working through some of the issues that many schools in Hawai'i face, learning about the updates to the Tutorial Request Form, revisiting the Essentials and MyAVID, and planning for the year ahead.

Some "aha"s that our teachers and coordinators mentioned:

- What the AVID (system) can become if you invest the energy into it.
- Dividing the data collection throughout the year.
- Tutorials would be great for lessons in core/elective classes.
- Point of Confusion—I love this!
- The PLC can help us have contacts to answer questions we may have.
- How much a site team needs to be on board and that everything can't be left up to the coordinator.
- AVID is about changing the lives of the Hawai'i students and opening doors to a brighter and bigger future!

We also piloted the PLC with our AVID Elementary teachers from Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area and Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area. We hope to continue the AVID PLC's for both Secondary and Elementary teams throughout the school year.



From left to right: Dani de Jesus, Jeneen Fukuroku, Jan Matsushita, Dawn Thompson, Cindy Asato-Kochi, Kim Uyehara, Sharon Seiki, Dain Shimabuku, and Cherilyn Inouye, AVID Hawai'i State Director.

Ratchet UP!

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insert it on to the document. I tried to upload many things, but our pictures and power points were incompatible. I needed more. We had beautiful pictures of our students and projects that I wanted to display for everyone. We were already using Google Docs for my science class so I thought why not have an AVID site? So I set up our AVID site on Google. There is a central home page that displays our team and our mission, then each essential gets its own page where we can upload all of our evidence. Each page has our rationale and our areas for growth then below there is a "file cabinet" for all of our documentation. I chose Google sites as they are pretty user friendly and the hosting is free. Initially I spent about three days scanning information, collecting papers from colleagues, and entering our information. Setting up the site was very time intensive, but now that it's there we can add and subtract at will. The updating will be much easier and we will have a true living document that can be accessed anywhere there is a computer. I am a staff developer in the AVID Summer Institutes, and it is very helpful to be able to access all of our information. I highly recommend going to a web based electronic portfolio. Retire your binder; it will take years off your life and pounds of paper off your desk! Please feel free to visit our site and email me with your ideas, suggestions and questions.

Adams City Middle School site:

<https://sites.google.com/site/adamscitymiddleschoolavid/>

Kristin Lockwood: kedwards@adams14.org

Kristin Lockwood teaches at Adams City Middle School in Adams County School District 14 in Commerce City, CO. She started teaching AVID 10 years ago and has been the AVID coordinator for the past six years. Kristin is also AVID staff Developer teaching at Summer Institute for the past seven summers. She continues to teach science at Adams City Middle school as she has for the past 13 years.

Do you have a great idea? How about an activity or strategy that has worked well at your site or in your AVID classroom? We would love to hear it! Email your ideas to gdavis@avidcenter.org with Ratchet UP in the subject line.

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