



◆NEWS RELEASE◆

FAIRMONT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SELECTED AS NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL

Boise, ID --02/16/2011 -- Boise School District's Fairmont Junior High School is the only school in Idaho to earn recognition as a National Demonstration School for a highly successful program that prepares students to succeed in college. Advancement Via Individual Determination or AVID is a national program that prepares secondary students who are performing in the academic middle for success in college.

On Tuesday, February 15, 2011, a review team from AVID spent the day at Fairmont Junior High School and officially recognized the school as an AVID National Demonstration School. AVID National Demonstration Schools are exemplary models of the program and demonstrate the very best AVID methodologies and strategies.

"This is a significant accomplishment," said Dr. **Dennis Johnston**, AVID National Director of Data and Evaluation. "AVID is implemented in more than 4,500 sites in 898 school districts nationwide, but only 124 school sites have earned recognition as a National Demonstration School. Today, your community can proudly state that one of those school sites includes Boise's own Fairmont Junior High School."

"We are extremely proud of our Fairmont students, staff members, parents, and District support staff for making this national recognition possible," explained Dr. **Don Coberly**, Superintendent, Boise School District. "AVID is a highly successful program that supports our District's strategic plan of preparing our students for success in the work environment, college and university studies, and citizenship in the 21st century."

National Demonstration School status means other schools and school districts interested in implementing AVID or improving their own AVID program can arrange to visit Fairmont Junior High School and experience a successful AVID program.

At an AVID demonstration school, visitors can observe:

- Dedicated and successful implementation of the 11 AVID Program Essentials
- Strong and committed leadership
- Evidence of outstanding student achievement
- Models for excellent inquiry-based AVID tutorials
- AVID as a school wide approach to school improvement
- A school wide college-going culture with college readiness as a basic expectation
- A center of learning for AVID best practices
- A showplace for the synergy and excitement a strong AVID program creates

Fairmont Junior High School was the first school in the Boise School District to offer the AVID program in 2006. Today, a total of 5 secondary schools in the Boise School District are certified to offer the program. By the 2012-13 school year all schools within the Boise School District are expected to be certified to offer AVID classes.

About AVID

Boise School District is the only school district in Idaho to offer the AVID program. The program prepares secondary students to become the facilitator of their own academic success. AVID provides daily study groups directed by professional tutors, a structure of note-taking and organization aimed at refining skills necessary for success in middle school, high school and college, and an arena for expanding the college-level entry skills of students underrepresented in higher education. Success in AVID is measured by students' success in high school and college academics.

Students are selected to apply for AVID based on a discrepancy between average to high math scores on standardized tests and average to low English scores, as well as school records which show a lower-than-expected grade point average and/or programming into classes that do not maximize their potential. When selected for the program, students are programmed into college preparatory classes designed to fulfill the requirements needed for entry into college.

The AVID curriculum includes seminars on lecture and textbook note taking, time management, test-taking strategies with particular emphasis on the PSAT and SAT tests, and writing development through various modes of discourse. AVID students receive individualized assistance from tutors, instructors and fellow students, and are provided with individualized academic counseling. Through AVID, students are assisted with the preparation of college applications and financial aid forms.

Guest speakers, field trips, and interaction in community and cultural activities enhance the AVID program. The support and involvement of parents is critical to students' success in the program, although the true motivation to succeed in AVID, as well as in all classes, comes from students themselves.

The following schools in the Boise School District have received AVID certification and are currently offering a certified AVID program for their students:

- Fairmont Junior High School
- North Junior High School
- Riverglen Junior High School
- West Junior High School
- Capital High School

Note: A number of other Boise School District schools are currently working on obtaining AVID certification, including Borah High, Hillside Junior High, and South Junior High.

In addition, in elementary schools within the District, a program entitled *Pathways to Success* is in place to teach elementary school students proper note-taking skills, binder organization skills, and other organizational and study skills. Again, by the 2012-13 school year all schools within the Boise School District are expected to offer certified AVID classes. For further information go to www.avid.org

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