

AVID,

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In the past six years, AVID at CCMS has grown from one dedicated class to six, and more than 180 students in all. "That's a little more than 20 percent of our student body," Schoepper said. "But it gives us confidence in pushing out the AVID methods to the rest of the school's students."

2013-14
CITIZENSHIP:
ONLY 2% of AVID Students received a grade of N or U (Needs Improvement, or Unsatisfactory)
COMPARED TO 4% of non-AVID Students

In OAKS testing for the 2013-14 school year, those 180 students outpaced their peers in every category. The average GPA of an average student was 3.26 compared to 2.55 for the whole of the student body. AVID students also fared exponentially better when it came to grades in citizenship and work habits.

AVID programming was originally designed to help student who were landing in the gray areas between academic high-flyers and those at the bottom end of the spectrum; those students who would often graduate high school, but had no conceivable plan for what would happen next.

2013-14
WORK HABITS:
ONLY 2.5% of AVID Students received a grade of N or U (Needs Improvement, or Unsatisfactory)
COMPARED TO 13% of non-AVID Students

However, Claggett's AVID programs have proven so successful there is now a waiting list to get into the program at every grade level, and any student can apply.

AVID changes have also made the school a desirable place to be for students. At the end of the first semester, CCMS had a 96.1 percent attendance rate, the highest of any middle school in the Salem-Keizer School District.

"When you cut through those numbers, it comes down to strong teacher-student and strong peer relationships where students feel safe," said Schoepper. "And at the heart of that is our AVID work."

Wanted: Service projects for CCMS AVID students

Kelly Greer is looking for ways for her students to give back to the community.

Greer, Claggett Creek Middle School's AVID coordinator, currently has students serving as reading buddies for first and second graders at Weddle Elementary School. Another contingent will help serve free lunches during winter break, but she's looking to fill gaps for the coming months.

"I'm looking for things where students also get an element of self-worth out of doing the project itself," said Greer.

Digging ditches is out of the question, but anything the students can do to give back to local communities is something she will consider.

"A few years ago, we had students making cards for soldiers, but those efforts have gone away," she said. "If it's a project someone can bring to our school or is within walking distance, I will usually give it a shot."

She said she is particularly interested in helping students fill the summer months.

For more information, or to suggest a project, contact Greer at greer_kelly@salkeiz.k12.or.us.

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