**Nyack Public Schools**

**AVID Holiday Events**

During the holiday season, our grade 7-10 AVID Elective students had a great time creating gingerbread houses at the Middle School with Ms. Luciani and decorating cookies at the High School with Ms. Williams and Ms. Espinal. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some holiday cheer with a sprinkling of social-emotional learning.

**Tutorials**

A small group of AVID students is now trained to serve as AVID Tutors for their peers. The elective classes at NMS and NHS have begun to conduct small-group tutorials. These sessions are designed to provide students with additional support in their academic classes. Students identify specific points of confusion in Math, English, History, Social Studies, or Language. The tutor and tutorial group then help them to resolve these problems through Socratic questioning.

**AVID Website**

Lorraine Longing has developed a new AVID webpage to highlight upcoming college trips, announcements, events, and links related to AVID. The site is now live on the district page.

**Community Service**

The AVID Elective students will be involved in two service learning projects this year. Ms. Williams and Ms. Espinal’s classes will be starting a pen pal project with students in Ghana, Africa, culminating in the delivery of school supplies to Ghanaian students. Also, AVID students will once again be making Valentine’s Day cards for local seniors.

**Professional Development**

A major focus of our program this year has been to train more Nyack teachers in the use of AVID strategies. We have been conducting PD sessions at department and faculty meetings so that teachers can learn more about strategies such as Philosophical Chairs, Four Corners, and Jigsaw. At our November NHS faculty meeting, teachers read an article about diversity and racial equity in honors classes. We used the Jigsaw strategy to read and discuss the article with the entire faculty.

Coming up on March 20th, district teachers will have the opportunity to participate in an AVID training at Superintendent’s Conference Day. Also, this July, a new group of teachers, counselors, and administrators will attend the AVID Summer Institute in Philadelphia, PA. Please reach out to Dave Sheehan or Lorraine Longing if you are interested in attending.

**AVID Strategy of the Month**

Many Nyack students have had the opportunity to experience new AVID strategies. AVID Elective classes, as well as the Social Studies and English Departments, have recently been using Philosophical Chairs and Jigsaw in the classroom. Additionally, NMS students have been exposed to the AVID strategies during extended homerooms. We are looking forward to ongoing implementation of these techniques in the new year.

**NMS Binders**

The AVID binder system is a critical component of the elective class. Recently, Ms. Luciani’s AVID students created an amazing video highlighting the benefits of this system for the entire student body.