This fall, Nyack’s AVID Program has grown to include electives at two new grade levels, 7th and 10th. Additionally, we are increasing our implementation of AVID strategies in a range of classrooms in both Nyack Middle School and Nyack High School. Throughout the school year, we’ll be offering professional development in an AVID Strategy of the Month to all faculty members and counselors.

**Nyack High School** now offers two AVID Electives: AVID 9, taught by Georgia Williams, and AVID 10, taught by Judelka Espinal. Both electives are teaching students a range of strategies for academic success. The AVID 10 students recently took the PSAT a year early to jumpstart their college planning.

At **Nyack Middle School**, Stephanie Luciani now teaches AVID skills to 7th and 8th graders. The AVID kids at NMS decided to start a *Newcomers Club* to create experiences that foster a positive atmosphere for all the new students in the district. They will act as point people, lunch buddies, and tour guides. They are in the process of creating a bulletin board in Guidance with their pictures and facts about the newcomers so that new students can refer to it to meet a new friend.

**Tutorials**

This year, the AVID Electives will begin offering tutorials at all grade levels. This essential AVID structure utilizes peer and college-level tutors to support our AVID students in any subject area. We are now offering a tutor training for high school students, college students, and adults. Once the tutors are trained, they will be available to work in the AVID Elective classrooms throughout the year.

**Website**

Lorraine Lorraine is developing a new webpage to highlight upcoming college trips, announcements, events, and links related to AVID. This site will soon be available on the district page.

**Professional Development**

This past summer, a group of teachers and counselors attended the AVID Summer Institute in Philadelphia, learning AVID approaches to content-area instruction, technology, counseling, and tutoring. There are a variety of AVID workshops being offered in the area this school year. Please contact David Sheehan or Lorraine Longing to register for one of these events, many of which are tailored to specific subject areas.

**AVID Strategy of the Month**

*October – Philosophical Chairs*

Teachers at NMS and NHS are now using this exciting structure to engage students in debate and critical thinking. NMS students recently all had the chance to experience philosophical chairs during an extended homeroom. English and Social Studies teachers at NHS have all received training in this strategy and will be using it to support their instruction.

*November – Four Corners*

This AVID strategy allows students to choose one of four statements related to a particular topic, located at each of the four corners of a room. They then present their views and discuss the topic with the class. The strategy promotes physical engagement with the topic and allows students the opportunity to practice public speaking. Students and teachers in both buildings will be trying this strategy next month.