

The Six-Year Plan

Long-range planning of coursework is extremely important for AVID students. Because the AVID class itself adds an elective to their class schedule, “fitting it all in” becomes very challenging over the years. Beginning the six-year plan early (and revisiting it at least twice each year in the AVID class) is an important activity. To help students stay focused and “on track,” continue to reinforce two ideas: it’s important that they achieve academic success, and that they understand how their individual courses relate to a course sequence.

Many AVID students need to attend summer school to complete all the coursework they need for college, especially if they choose to be involved in sports or music programs. Some will attend an extra class period during the regular school year, if that option is available. Additionally, high school students, especially juniors and seniors, may supplement their coursework by taking additional courses at a local community college.

The activities in this section are meant to start the process of the six-year plan. *Involving your school counselors is crucial to these activities.* Ideally, your middle school counselor can invite the high school counselor to be a guest speaker in the AVID classroom, and they can collaborate to teach these lessons to your AVID students. If you do not have counselors at your middle school, contact the counselors at your high school for assistance with the six-year plan as well as information about course offerings at the high school.

The six-year plan will be addressed at each grade level in this book, and it should be updated after final grades are posted for each grading period. Students should become responsible for keeping track of their own six-year plans and should become their own advocates for choosing courses they feel best meet their educational and career goals.

Lastly, an updated six-year plan should be a part of each student’s yearly portfolio. Portfolios are discussed in detail at the end of each grade level section.

Into

Time: 1 class period

- As part of the lesson on post-secondary options, the students will have already heard a counselor discuss courses needed to attend college; have students collaborate in small groups to recall this information and list it.
- Based on their research on post-secondary options, students should decide which college option they are pursuing and be familiar with the courses necessary to reach that goal.

Through

Time: 3 class periods

- Have the counselor(s) return to help students work through their six-year plans step-by-step. Use the Six-Year Plan Grid in this section (a generic example is included). Using examples helps students understand course sequences; for example, geometry in the ninth grade naturally progresses to AP Calculus by the 12th grade, or an Honors English class is important scaffolding to eventual enrollment in an AP English language or literature course. With the counselor(s), work with the students as a whole class and in small groups until they have their six-year grids filled in completely. Students will need to know about fulfilling graduation requirements for physical education or health in addition to core classes, and will have to be shown how to pursue a particular interest such as art or music or foreign language while still meeting all their other graduation and college requirements. It may be helpful to group students according to similar interests or goals for small-group work;

groups could then share how their six-year plans may differ from others', according to their particular interests or goals.

- After the students have their initial six-year plans on paper, have them continue to work in their small groups to create large six-year plan grids on poster board. Tell them to write in the names of the courses on stickies and stick them to the poster board in the appropriate spaces. Then use the scenarios in Activity 1.14 to help them learn about the consequences of failing courses or how the six-year plan may be revised as their interests and goals shift over the years. Have a volunteer in each group read a scenario aloud, and let group members discuss how they think the six-year plan would change. Have students move, add, and remove stickies as necessary to reflect and project the changes in the coursework.

Beyond

Time: 1–2 class periods

- Ideally, the activities above are completed during the first semester or grading period of the school year; once final grades are available for the first grading period, have students review their six-year plans and make any adjustments based on their grades.
- If possible, have students meet with high school AVID students (or any high school students if there are no AVID high school students yet) and discuss their six-year plans. Students should brainstorm questions they would ask high school students about planning their coursework; have them think about advice that high school students may be able to provide. Perhaps several high school students (or college students) could visit your AVID classroom and work with the students in small groups. Process the visit as a whole class and have students reflect on what they learned from speaking with the older students.



Student Activity 1.13 (1 of 2)

Six-Year Plan Grid

	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English/ Language Arts						
Science						
Math						
Social Studies						
Physical Education						
Visual and Performing Arts						
Foreign Language						
Other						
AVID						

Student Activity 1.13 (2 of 2)

Six-Year Plan Grid (*Example*)

	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English/ Language Arts	7th Grade Language Arts	8th Grade Language Arts Honors	English 9 Honors	English 10 Honors	AP English Language	AP English Literature
Science	7th Grade Science	8th Grade Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	AP Biology, Chemistry, or Physics
Math	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Trigonometry	AP Calculus
Social Studies	7th Grade Social Studies	8th Grade Social Studies Honors		World History	U.S. History	Government and Economics
Physical Education	PE	PE	PE	(may need to take in summer or as an extra course to fit in AVID)		
Visual and Performing Arts				Art, Music, or Drama Course		
Foreign Language					Spanish 1	Spanish 2
Other			Health and Computers			
AVID	AVID 7	AVID 8	AVID 9	AVID 10	AVID 11	AVID Senior Seminar (college-prep elec-)