



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
520 MAIN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96818

August 12, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to share a few thoughts with you as we begin School Year 2015-2016. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Elementary is entering its second year of implementing AVID Elementary (Advancement via Individual Achievement) strategies from Pre-Kindergarten through Sixth grade. Some of you may be familiar with AVID and the positive results many Hawaii schools have experienced by utilizing AVID instructional strategies to ensure all of our students will have the background knowledge and essential skills to successfully pursue a college and/or career after graduating from high school.

AVID Elementary is a foundational component of the AVID College Readiness System, and it supports Hawaii Department of Education as well as AVID's mission *to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society* and AVID's vision *to provide a comprehensive model of success for all students, from elementary through higher education*.

AVID Elementary is designed to be embedded into the daily instruction of all elementary classrooms across entire grade levels to maintain school-wide structures.

All of AVID Elementary's elements as well as philosophy are grounded in the idea that a "growth mindset" can be taught to students, and it is through this "growth mindset" that AVID students succeed in following their dreams and fulfilling their aspirations.

The grade levels will continue to scaffold, or build on, organizational and note-taking skills and incorporate SLANT (Sit up straight, Look and listen, Ask appropriate questions, Nod your head yes or no, and Talk with your teacher) in every classroom.

Additionally, each grade level will incorporate at least three (3) components of WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) into a lesson. Each grade level will adopt a college. A visual map of where our faculty members attended college will be displayed in the cafeteria, and a Parent Night is scheduled for Tuesday, 9/15/2015. We hope you will be able to attend this function.

We would appreciate your support in promoting AVID on campus by providing daily parent signatures in the communication book, homework folder, or planner. We are promoting college readiness by having *optional* college shirt days, where faculty, staff, and students wear a college shirt of their choice to school. No NBA, NFL, MLB, MLH, or other professional sports attire is permitted.

Dates to wear a college shirt are: Friday, 8/28/15; Friday, 9/25/15; Thursday, 10/29/15; Friday, 11/20/15; Friday, 12/11/15; Friday, 1/29/16; Friday, 2/26/16; Friday, 3/11/16; Friday, 4/29/16; and Friday, 5/20/16.

Please take a moment to watch the 5-minute overview video attached below, and be a critical support member in your child's educational career.

What is AVID Elementary? <http://bit.ly/1vjAlk8>

Sincerely,

Marcy Kagami
Principal