

M A R C H 2 0 1 2

Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



Principal's Corner

This month I want to share information with you about our AVID program. I think you will be impressed with our AVID program and how it is preparing our kids for high school, college, and beyond.

But I also wanted to share with you about the recent honor GMS, our superintendent, and our School Board received for the work we are doing at Graves. I recently traveled to Sacramento to receive an award from the California Middle Grades Alliance for our achievements at Graves Middle School. It is nice to receive accolades from a statewide organization that is independent of our district but recognizes the hard work and success I see every day from our hard working teachers, staff, students, and families. Thank you to our School Board and our Superintendent, Dr. Kwek, for supporting Graves. As I have said before, "Come see the difference at Graves Middle School!"

AVID Program

The AVID program at Graves Middle School is a great program that prepares our kids for high school and college. AVID is an acronym for Advancement Via Individual Determination. Our AVID teachers are Mr. Honeycutt, who teaches 7th grade Academy Social Studies, and Mr. Sardo, who teaches 8th grade Academy Social Studies at Graves Middle School. AVID is an elective class and there are two 7th grade

Save the Date!

Academic Advisory

3/2/12

Students will receive their 1st progress report of the 3rd quarter. So look out for your child's advisory card.

7th grade CST
Writing Exam

3/6/12

Please make sure your 7th grader prepares for this important state exam.

School Site Council

3/14/12

Join us for the SSC meeting in the Parent Center from 2:50-3:50 pm.

GMS Panthers #1



AVID Program continued

AVID classes and two 8th grade AVID classes. difference at Graves Middle School!

The purpose of the AVID program is to prepare students for high school, college, and beyond by helping them with many different types of skills. For example, our AVID kids receive help in the area of organizational skills because they are required to keep organized notes and binders that are checked on a weekly basis.

Our AVID kids also get help with how to take Cornell Notes, which is a very effective note-taking system that helps kids organize the information they receive in every one of their classes. They also have their writing and reading reinforced as they prepare for high school, college, and careers during their

AVID elective. Furthermore, our AVID kids get support from college students twice a week during tutorials in whatever subject area they need it. Our college tutors facilitate small groups of students and help the students help themselves, and each other, so that our AVID kids can figure out their problems independently. This helps our kids because it shows them that they can overcome their academic uncertainties and develop intellectual independence. Ultimately, we want our kids to develop academic independence because we know that there will not always be an adult around to help them when they get stuck.

Our goal is to become an AVID Demonstration Site (which is an attainable and highly distinctive achievement) because we know that AVID is great for kids. The AVID program sets us apart, so come see the



Panthers Battle during Tournament

Our 8th grade boys' basketball and 8th grade girls' soccer teams battled during their respective league championship tournaments. We want to offer congratulations to our 8th grade boys' basketball team for taking the consolation game in the league championship tournament, which was held at Graves Middle School. We lost the first game to a tough Lake Center team by four points, but then we pulled out impressive close wins against East Whittier by four points, and then Granada by four points to win the tournament consolation game. The 8th grade boys finished with a 12-8 record for the season, which was partially because of their success in the St. Paul Christmas Tournament, where we finished in 6th place out of an 18 team tournament.

The 8th grade girls' soccer team lost 2-0 to Lake Center in the first round of the tournament after we beat them pretty soundly during the regular season (4-1). Our girls then beat East Whittier 1-0 to set up a battle against Rancho Starbuck in the consolation game. Unfortunately, the Rancho girls played a great game and we lost 2-0. We want to thank our coaches, student athletes, and families for all of the hard work, excitement, and support throughout the season. Look out for our boys' soccer, girls' basketball, and co-ed track teams during the spring season, good luck Panthers!

