**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Fancher Creek Elementary named region’s**

**first National AVID Showcase School!**

Clovis Unified’s Fancher Creek Elementary is now one of a kind in Fresno County. This week, the school was notified of its selection by the AVID Center as a National Showcase School. The AVID Center is a national educational center focused on creating instructional strategies and school climates that deliver highly effective inquiry-based learning designed to close the opportunity gap in college graduation rates among diverse and underrepresented demographic groups.

Fancher Creek Elementary was selected for this designation because it has been highly effective at implementing AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) strategies resulting in student academic achievement. In a single year at the school, student achievement increased 4% in English Language Arts and 4% in Math. The designation is the first for a school in Fresno County and with the announcement, Fancher Creek Elementary becomes the only showcase school in a region stretching from Modesto to Southern California.

According to Principal Carisa Cordova, “It is a testament to our staff's cohesiveness, competitive spirit, and willingness to be cutting-edge that we have become the first National AVID Showcase school in our area.  This means that educators from all over the country will come to learn from Fancher Creek how AVID can best be implemented at the elementary level. One of the AVID Center visitors commented that this will make Fancher Creek the ‘north star’ for schools wanting to implement AVID,” she added.

According to the AVID Center, by teaching and reinforcing academic behaviors and higher-level thinking at a young age, AVID Elementary teachers create a ripple effect in later grades. Elementary students develop the academic habits they will need to be successful in middle school, high school, and college and career, in an age-appropriate and challenging way. Children learn about organization, study skills, communication, and self-advocacy. AVID Elementary students take structured notes and answer and ask high-level questions that go beyond routine answers.

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