

## We are Growth

Brenham ISD fosters an environment of deeper thinking for staff and students.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) - AVID is available to incoming seventh and eighth graders at Brenham Junior High School and freshmen and sophomores at Brenham High School. AVID is concentrated on leadership, systems, instruction, and culture, and is designed to increase the number of students who enroll and succeed in higher education. AVID focuses on providing quality training to teachers and administrators on how to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Students enrolled in the AVID course learn writing and research skills, study skills, note taking, and time management, while being immersed in a college-going culture. AVID also includes tutoring sessions led by college students and



community members. Throughout the year, AVID students participate in learning experiences that include visits to colleges, hearing from guest speakers, and participating in team building activities to help support the college-bound initiative.

**Professional Learning Communities** - BISD believes that Professional Learning Communities (PLC) involve much more than a staff meeting or group of teachers getting together to discuss a book. PLCs represents a focus on continuous improvement in staff performance as well as student learning. PLCs have been called the most powerful professional development and change strategy available, "PLCs, when done well, lead to reliable growth in student learning."

**Instructional and Content Support** - Instructional and content specialists were added to the district as a way to help support teachers in the classroom. Their purpose is to assist with the implementation of highly effective teaching and learning strategies and practices, and support the data conversation process. They also provide targeted instructional feedback.

**Harvard Leadership Programs** - In 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, four principals from Brenham ISD were chosen to receive a Raise Your Hand Texas grant to attend The Principals' Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Each year eighty Texas educators are selected from seven hundred applicants to attend the week long program. These principals were honored to join an elite club of educators from across the world to focus on educational issues ranging from how to close the achievement gap to leadership and evolving vision. Principals that have attended included:

- Robert Fleming 2016 Brenham Elementary School
- Courtney Mason 2016 Krause Elementary School
- Bryan Bryant 2017 Brenham Junior High School
- Joseph Chandler 2017 Brenham High School