

Wilbert G. Ochoa



Joined AVID in 2002

Roles/Responsibilities:

FMS AVID Site Coordinator
8th Grade Core (ELA/Social Studies) Teacher

Strengths:

- **Rigor:** I believe in having a rigorous classroom. In my experience, having high expectations and rigor in the classroom, as well as giving students opportunities for growth, students tend to rise to the challenge.

- **Drive:** I work very hard to provide opportunities for all students to learn and be successful. My drive to create lessons, units, interventions, and extensions show I am willing to put in the work to be successful. I look forward to the challenges that are in education that are aimed at problem-solving.

- **Background:** I believe that having a background that is very similar to many students is important to be able to make connections with them and create a class culture that is open and welcoming to all students.

Top Values and why:

- **Family:** My family is everything to me. I would not be here without the hard work and the opportunities my parents and extended family have worked hard to give me access to. I want to instill those same characteristics in my family as well. William James, an early American Philosopher, once said "The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." One day, I will die, and that's ok, but while I'm here I'm going to make sure that when until that day comes, I will spend time with my family instilling values and lessons I've learned from those that are longer with my family to ensure my family is given opportunities to be successful in the future. This value is shown in my classroom as well when I instill lessons I've learned from my family and share them to build a culture that is welcoming and positive in the classroom.

- **Grace:** Everyone has different backgrounds and viewpoints. Rather than be a society where everything is so divided and hurtful, I believe wholeheartedly, that every single person should be treated with grace. People make mistakes, and it's important to see mistakes as opportunities for growth. This value of grace bleeds into my classroom because I think it's essential to give students grace in order to allow them to make mistakes and learn from them and embrace the process of learning.

- **Ganas "Effort", "Grit":** Growing up my mom would always say "*Tienes que echarle ganas*" which roughly translates to "you have to put forth an effort." Early on, as a child of immigrants and an immigrant myself, I learned that if I wanted to be successful in life, it would depend on the effort I put forth when given opportunities to be successful. I instill this value in my classroom every day with all my students. I have

Why did I choose to be in AVID?

I am an AVID student. When I was an 8th grader at Chemawa Middle School in Riverside California, my parents heard of a program that was aimed at getting kids the opportunity to go to college, and here I am today. I've been an AVID student, Tutor, Teacher, and now site director. I think the AVID program is a program that is able to see the potential of students and give them the tools and opportunities they need to be a successful member of society.

Pledges (behavior linked to values above):

- *I pledge to be a positive role model for my family and students*

- *I pledge to show grace to all students and staff*

- *I pledge to be an example of hard work*

- *I pledge to give students opportunities to be successful*