

Solomon, an orphan from war-torn Sierra Leone who immigrated to Bellevue at the age of 15, found academic success at Sammamish High School through the AVID program. This is his story:



“At Sammamish, I struggled since I had been out of school for many years, and English was my second language. My teachers always went out of their way to help and my friends were always there for me. I tried very hard, but still I was getting C’s and D’s in some of my classes. My life changed forever when I became an AVID student. In AVID I learned how to take good notes, how to be more organized, and most important how to study efficiently. I learned so much about colleges and opportunities they have in store for me. My fellow AVID students helped me a lot and I helped them too anytime I could. During my first semester of AVID, I got B’s in all my classes and even more exciting in second semester I had **all A’s and only one B**. This had never happened in my academic life. Thanks to AVID let me tell you about some of the classes I have taken: AP Physic B, AP Statistics, AP English Language, AP calculus BC, AP Chemistry, AP Literature, AP Psychology, AP American Government, Advanced Calculus and many more.

When I applied to colleges, the only things I needed help with were my college essays and letters of recommendation. I applied to seven colleges – by myself – and took care of financial aid applications – all alone. I knew how to do this thanks to AVID. Would you like to know which colleges said yes to me? University of Washington, Western Washington University, and Boston College

I’m standing before you today and at the same time reflecting on my past. There was nothing written in it that said I will have a high school diploma. Now, I will not only graduate high school, I’m also going to college. And I’m not just going to any college, but one of the best in the country. I’m going to Boston College with almost a full scholarship.

I know you will be saying ‘Oh My Gosh! This young man is smart!’ But, I will love to tell you that I’m just an average student who was given the opportunity to rise up to my full potential through the awesome program called AVID.”