

## **Dreaming for Success**

When I first walked in the doors of Greenwich High School, I didn't know what to expect. I was so nervous about where to go, I had butterflies flying through my stomach, and when I realized the place was huge I was so frightened to get lost in such a huge place with approximately 2712 students. As the bell rings I slowly take my time and walk into room 324, which was called AVID and we were the only class out of the entire school. When class started my teacher Ms. Macchio had introduced the class and I was just about to introduce myself. Right away Ms. Macchio gave us an outline of what we would be doing in AVID. I was not impressed but then as she starts to read her speech to us, I was so inspired and felt right at home in my environment. Her warm felt speech has guided me until now to stay strong and to never give up. AVID has pushed me to put 110 percent effort in all my work. They make sure to nag on you till you get on track with work and to make sure you follow the right path to success. The next day in class Ms. Macchio wanted us to make a goal that later in the future we can achieve the goal. When I heard that I reminded myself of UConn. My goal was to go to UConn Storrs in Hartford, Connecticut, and to pursue that dream I had to start with me. I now became accomplished to do what I dreamed of. I knew that I had to work five times harder and without AVID there I don't know who I would have to support me. I was so happy by the first quarter when my progress report came out in all A's and B's. I have excelled in my work and it was all because of AVID. I was in such high spirits when my parents recognized my work. They were also so proud of me.

Not only were they proud of me but I can admit they are also the reason where I am today. My parents are my life. Well, without them I would have nowhere to live, but also they support me through everything. Whether it's a sport, school, trip, or even a friend event they're always there. They teach me how to have self-advocacy, and make right decisions. The family I came from is very supportive, and they always tell me if I fall down bring yourself back up. They also tell me that when I start something to never give up. This has meant a lot to me. So it's all right if you get stuck in situations because when you're in AVID they'll always be at your side. As Dr. Seuss says, "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself, any direction you choose."

Jenny Cespedes