

Avon Public Schools Advisory Program

What is an Advisory Program?

- In a student advisory program, each student in the school is assigned a teacher or staff member who assists the student in achieving his or her academic and personal goals.
- Advisory groups are small in size – usually between 10-12 students.
- Meetings are usually 20-30 minutes in duration
- About 30 meetings per year with pre-developed activities

The advisor is not a substitute for the school counselor.

- **Guidance:** The help all students receive from teachers, parents, community members, and others to assist with educational and career development.
- **Counseling:** The help some students receive from credentialed professional to overcome personal and social barriers to learning.
- **Advising:** A process to help all students develop awareness and skills about themselves, career and personal options, and to strengthen decision-making abilities.

The Advisory Program can help support a positive culture for learning by:



- ✓ Improving the teacher-student relationship
- ✓ Improving classroom behavior
- ✓ Informing and preparing all school staff to better assist students
- ✓ Creating a community of learners

What is the Urgency Behind the Development of the Program?

- NEASC - Indicator 2 of the first Standard on Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations: *The school has challenging and measurable 21st century learning expectations for all students which address academic, **social**, and civic competencies, and are defined by school-wide analytic rubrics that identify targeted high levels of achievement.*
- Indicator 3 of the fifth Standard on School Culture and Leadership: *There is a formal, ongoing program through which each **student has an adult in the school**, in addition to the school counselor, who knows the student well and assists the student in achieving the school's 21st century learning expectations.*

Connections between Advisory & the SSP

- Section 2(j) “For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall create a **Student Success Plan** for each student enrolled in a public school, beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a student’s career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.”
- **SSPs prepare students for:**
 - *postsecondary education, life, and careers*
 - *competition in a dynamic global economy*
- **SSPs provide students**
 - *opportunity to design their own future with the support of critical adults and innovative school policies*
 - *opportunity to know and understand self in a positive learning environment*

Avon Public Schools Advisors:

- Who Will Be Advisors?
 - Most full time, certified Faculty / Staff
- Who Will Not Be?
 - Part-time staff, para-educators and administrators
 - These individuals will attend, assist, and substitute as needed.

Advisory Activities

- Build in SSP-required activities, guidance activities, along with specific school related goals (7 Habits / Core Beliefs)
- Provide guidelines / talking points to ensure comfort/ confidence of all staff
- Permit some flexibility for questions/ concerns/ discussions that focus on specific student needs

AMS Sample List of Activities- 1st quarter, 2013-14

Week	Advisory Plan
1	Advisory Introductions / “Ice-Breaker” Activity
2	Week 2 Check-In- How is the year going so far? Advice from 8th graders to 7th graders?
3	SSP/ 7 Habits Interest Inventory Activity -
4	Pursuing Your Interests- Get Involved (Discussion of clubs/ extra-curriculars)
5	Advisory Team-Building Activity
6	SSP / Mid-Quarter check-in and academic goal-setting activity
7	Guidance Activity: Bullying Follow-Up
8	Guidance Activity: Bullying Follow-Up, cont.
9	Advisory Reading Activity – discussion of common article read in that Day’s SSR

AHS Possible Advisory Overview

1st Quarter 2013-2014

Grade	1 st Quarter Advisory Plan
9	Introduction to High School
10	Study Skills & Time Management
11	Beginning Post Secondary Planning
12	Graduation Check List and Planning

School-wide student advisement = RESULTS

Advisory can contribute to positive school climate in several ways:

- ✓ Positive school climates and improved student performance

(Benigni & Petrosky, 2011)

- ✓ Develops the skills, confidence, and motivation to participate in a vitally important school-wide processes (Lickona & Davidson, 2005)

- ✓ Improved attendance (Simpson & Boriack, 1994)

- ✓ When well implemented and sustained, advisory programs potentially allow educators and students to develop strong relationships that support student learning (Jackson & Davis, 2000)



“When students experience caring and connectedness at school they exhibit academic, social, and ethical benefits including greater enjoyment of learning, stronger motivation to act kindly toward others, and stronger feelings of social competence.”

(Breaking Ranks, NASSP, 1996)