

# SAIS Building an Effective Student-Centered Middle School Advisory

Toolbox

Why are you here?

# You want to know:

- What an effective advisory looks like
- What qualities do successful advisors need
- How do advisors communicate with stakeholders (teachers, students, parents, and administrators)
- How advisors have tough talks
- The hot button issues for students that need to be discussed in advisory

**NORMS**

- Be more curious than certain
- Be present, playful, and learn hard
- Share freely, hold lightly

MAD TEA

- If your current advisory plan was compared to a tool, what would it be and why?
- One superpower you bring to anything hard that needs your help?

- You don't need to take notes.
- Be fully present.
- Learn with your eyes, ears, and your body.
- Get up and stand.



- Take 3 minutes and list out all the problems you think others expect you to solve about advisory.

Take 3 minutes and  
describe the essential  
function of advisory.

Take 3 minutes and describe the behaviors associated with the essential function.

# Group discussion

## **What does advisory look like at your school?**

Small group discussion:

1. Who's in charge of your school's advisory program?
2. Does your administration support the program?
3. Does your school have an Advisory Program Coordinator?
4. When does advisory fit into the schedule?
5. What is the group configuration: single grade or mixed grades?
6. Does your school provide resources for advisors to use (books, games, athletic equipment, art supplies, etc.)?
7. Does your school have a handbook or manual for advisors?

Group discussion:

What does an advisor look like at your school?

And what do they need to be successful

Small group discussion:

1. Should the adviser also be a current teacher of the advisee?

# What qualities does an advisor need to be successful?

Read the following list of statements. Does it include the attributes necessary to be a successful advisor? Are there qualities not listed that can make a positive impact on students?

- A desire to keep honesty and integrity in the forefront of all interactions with students, parents, and colleagues
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- The ability to work on a team / collaboration skills
- A knack for looking at old problems in new ways

# Qualities: Continued...

- The ability to connect with students
- A sense of humor
- The skills necessary to recognize, understand, and solve problems
- The ability to diffuse difficult situations and have “tough talks” with parents, students, and teachers

# Tough Talks

Can the advisor successfully have conversations that result in resolution and satisfaction for both participants?

Here are a few reminders when engaging in difficult situations.

- Start with a pleasant greeting
- Actively listen
- Remain professional and stay calm
- Be honest



# Hot-button issues for students today

- social media and technology
- bullying / peer relations
- family relationships
- executive functioning (organization)

Questions? Concerns? Thoughts?