



Fostering Connection and Trust Through Advisory



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Today

- Practical strategies for established and emerging programs
- Essential elements that make programs thrive
- Sample activities
- Curriculum and materials
- Common pitfalls to avoid
- What works for you

Mission Alignment

The Mission of Saint Stephen's Episcopal School is to:

- Provide a superior academic program which prepares each student for a college or university compatible with the individual's academic ability, interest, and needs;
- Instill in each student a love of learning, a respect for all members of the school community, and a fundamental sense of integrity;
- Provide a nurturing environment which values independence and self-worth, health and wellness, spiritual awareness, and responsible global citizenship.

The Mission of The Bolles School:

The Bolles School prepares students for college and life by inspiring excellence, courage, integrity and compassion in an academic community dedicated to nurturing mind, body and soul.



SSES Promise

Every child will be known and valued



2020-2021



2023-2024



Making connections early and often...

Biggest Pet Peeve

- Take 1 minute to think about your biggest pet peeve
- When the timer goes off, turn to someone near you and share your pet peeves.
- Why would a simple activity like this be so valuable?



Making connections early and often...

Establishing Advisory Norms

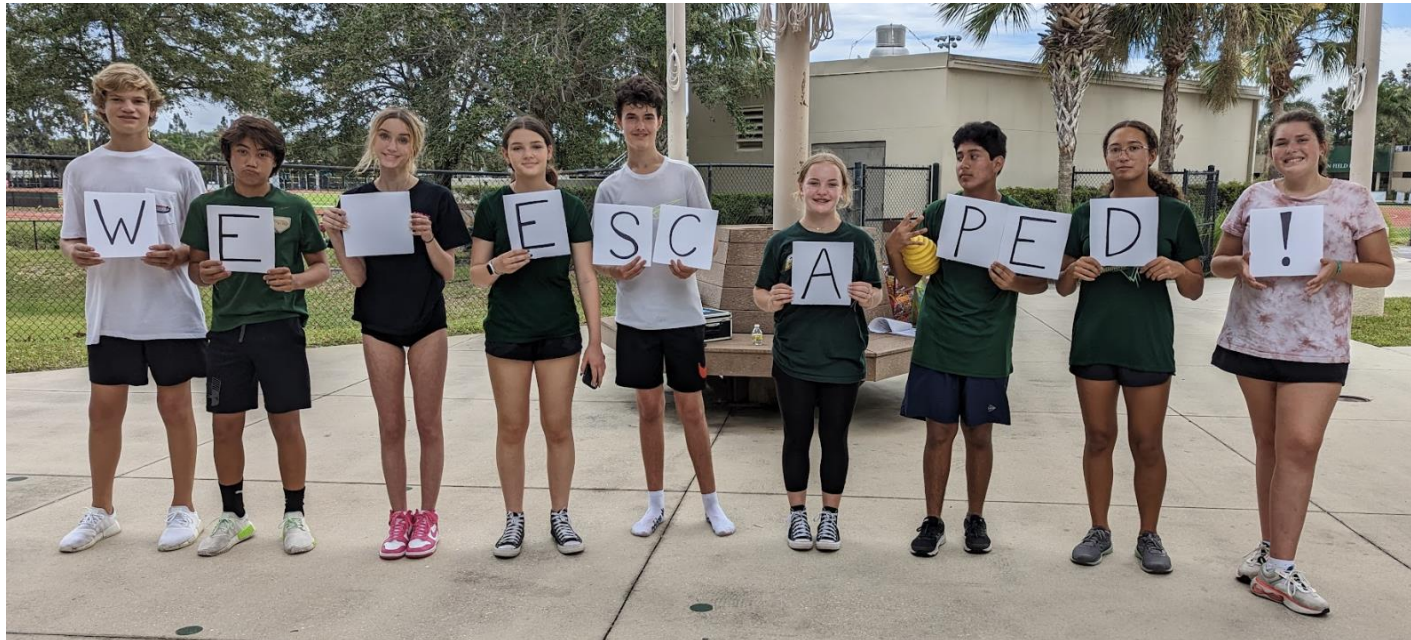
- Advisory Norms
1. This is a cozy space where each of us feels known.
 2. We offer to help one another.
 3. This is a judgement free zone.
 4. We will listen to one another & be interested.
 5. We will respect each other's beliefs, ideas, and personal space.
 6. We are okay with learning new things
 7. We will keep an open mind as we listen and seek to understand each other.
 8. We won't interrupt one another.
 9. We welcome conversations and ask each other thoughtful questions.
 10. It is okay to make a mistake, no one should ever feel ridiculed or judged because of making a mistake.
 11. We encourage each other and don't tear each other down.



Making connections early and often...

9th Grade Team Bonding Day

- Numbers Game Video
- Cups Game Video



Making connections early and often...

Activity - 2 Truths and a Lie :
[CLICK HERE](#)

On your phone or on paper write down two statements that are true about yourself and one that is a lie. We will then all try to guess which one is the lie!



Making connections early and often...

Activity

- Spoons Video



Food, food, and more food!



Food, food, and more food!



Food, food, and more food!



Food, food, and more food!



Food, food, and more food!



Food, food, and more food!



Practical strategies for established and emerging programs

- **Buy in** – Faculty Team meetings – frequent feedback
2024-2025 End of Year Feedback
- **Curriculum** – but be flexible
- **Links** to grade level meetings/all school meetings
- **Per-packaged good** – but not only
- **Not all experiences are the same** – this is good!

Essential elements that make programs thrive

Communication

- Call or write home the first week of school
- Check in with each advisee after the first week of school
- Call or write home during the first month of school with something positive to share
- Attend a practice, game, or performance and then talk about it!

Common pitfalls to avoid

- Lack of training of training/buy in for advisors
- Not having a lead advisor
- Expectations
- Opt Out for adults and students
- Lack of planning
- If you're taking someone's time, make it worth their while
- Make it easy for the advisor
- This is not a study hall
- Read the room

What works for you?

Sample Advisory Programs

[2018-2019 Advisory Program](#)

[2021-2022 Advisory Program \(Harvard Making Caring Common\)](#)

Sample Advisory Programs

2022-2023 Advisory Program (Themes)

- 9th Grade: Kindness
- 10th Grade: Entrepreneurship
- 11th Grade: Service
- 12th Grade: Project 18



Sample Advisory Programs

2023-2024 Advisory Program (The Social Institute)



