

# “I will remember the joy”

CLASS OF 2020 ADVISORS REFLECT ON WHAT MADE THEIR GROUP SPECIAL



“When I think of my Advisory, the one word I come up with is “intelligence.” This group achieved an unbelievable academic record. For the academic year 2019-20, they had a combined seven grades under A- for the year. Eleven students, only seven grades under A-. That is remarkable! But they each had their own personality. What a great group!”

— Kevin Billerman

“I had already advised two groups on Lead from Here activities, but I remember one of my first discussions with this group, on substance abuse, and being blown away by the scenarios they produced and the ensuing discussion. I knew then and there this was a group to be cherished. In the ensuing two years, they have continued to impress me. They will accomplish amazing feats.”

— Ann Carroll

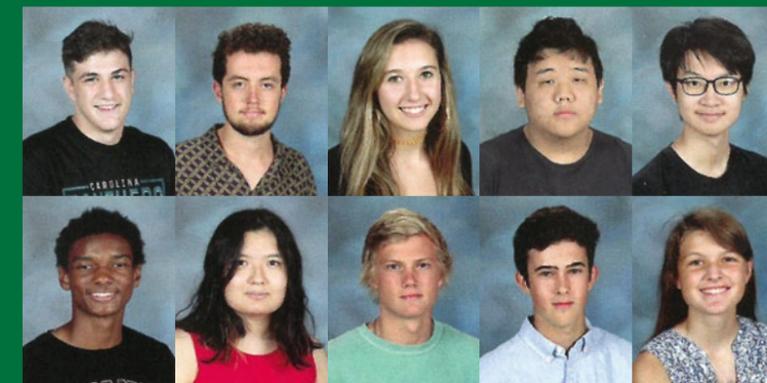


“These students became a cohesive group – inclusive, protective and supportive of one another. They rejoice in each other’s accomplishments and are supportive in the face of challenges. I was overjoyed on the day they decided to rearrange the furniture in our classroom so they could eat Advisory lunches as a family. I will remember the joy that the group brought to many of our meetings.”

— Susann Heckman

“The word that best describes this Advisory is “eclectic.” We have artists, musicians, athletes, cooks, readers, writers and so on – a multitasking group with a diversity of personalities as well as interests. We had very rousing debates as to whether a hot dog is a sandwich! I loved doing the Angel Tree gift-giving with them over multiple years.”

— Karen Carroll



“I asked my advisees what word they associated with our Advisory group, and I was surprised at how many of them said “thoughtful” and “respectful.” What their choices revealed to me was that, despite their different interests and personalities and ways of looking at the world, Advisory provided a time and space where they felt safe and heard and respected. And for this I am extremely grateful.”

— Mary Beth Immediata

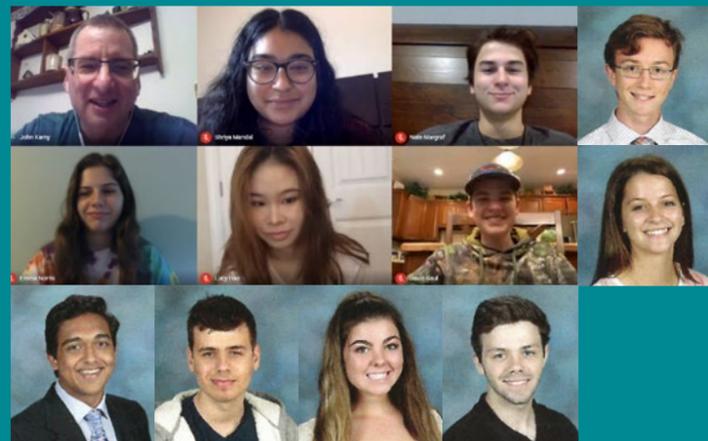


“Every time we had a group activity where we should be modeling leadership (“leading from here”), this group stepped up and shone. Special Olympics, SPEAK, Celebration Days, whatever the activity – I was always so proud and very grateful. They always acted like the senior leaders they were when it was important, like when our younger students were watching and listening.”

— David Kates

“All I can say is that I’ll remember each individual for who they were. Some were funny, some hard-working, some caring, some carefree. They’re all different and therefore special. What really reflected their character, for me, was hearing their senior speeches and realizing that they’ve seen the same growth in themselves over the years that I’ve seen in them.”

— John Karney



“Something that will always stick with me about this Advisory is how thoughtful they were during the senior speech process. For every senior speech, they listened with rapt attention, and the questions, comments and feedback they gave at the end really showed how genuinely they care for one another and how invested they are in one another’s success and well-being.”

— Anna Nethery



“Over the course of four years, this Advisory welcomed two new students and me, a new (old) advisor, when Kalista Richardson became sophomore dean. We are a tight-knit Advisory full of personality and concern for others. I have full faith that their compassion and acceptance of others will make an indelible mark on the communities that they will be joining this fall. I will miss them greatly!”

— Nicole Moore

“The Welsh Advisory is not a cliché “everything is perfect” family, but one that teases, bickers and is always there for one another. Through the years in the science suite we talked through lessons, learned to play spoons, ate birthday cupcakes, competed in Scattergories, planned Advisory lunches (dreaming of Mrs. Bonita’s food), wrapped gifts and encouraged one another.”

— Zoe Welsh

