

Hollis Brookline High School Advisory Program Overview

Philosophy and Purpose

The Advisory program at HBHS was developed for students and advisors to know each other well and for each student to be connected to an anchoring adult in the building. The focus is on the development of the whole learner in their path toward the “profile of a cavalier” “vision of a graduate” (life- long learning) ...something connected to the mission / school vision. The emphasis is on developing relationships and creating a positive, safe, and supportive peer and school culture.

The three specific purposes of the Advisory program at Hollis Brookline are:

- Lifelong Learning Skills
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- Building Connections
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- Community, Culture & Communication

Organization

In order to achieve and support the above purposes the Advisory program is organized in such a way.

- Advisory meets 15 minutes three days a week with the option to employ an alternative schedule allowing for an extended 45 min Advisory on Monday to allow for whole community and cross grade activities.
- Students are grouped by grade level.
- Advisories will be paired to provide Advisor support. These two groups may or may not share a space depending on building resources.
- All faculty and administration will serve as Advisors, when possible.
- Older students will be utilized as Peer Mentors / Ambassadors for younger grades.

Program Content (Future Agenda Item)

The content of Advisory experiences is grounded in the stated purposes of Advisory and in knowing the whole learner, building relationships and a positive, safe and supportive environment. Advisors have access to shared resources that have been developed by staff and are stored in a shared Advisory Google folder.

- Will there be minimum expectations, norms and routines, shared or not?
- Will there be shared common activities throughout the school? I.e.; around academics, goal setting, progress report review and reflection etc.
- Will there be grade dependent shared content? Skill building; organizational skills for freshman (how to “do” high school), seniors and transitioning to life after HB, sophomores and building your high school story etc...Possibilities for grade wise culture building.

Staff Development and Support (Future Agenda Item)

The purpose of staff development and support for Advisory is to empower staff in their role of Advisor through the development of facilitation and advocacy skills as well as providing Advisors with content resources to engage in purposeful experiences with students. There is a diverse range of Advisors and each with unique strengths and needs. Sustained support for Advisors is available through (buddy advisors, identified support people,)

- What initial staff development will be provided? When will it be provided?
- How will staff development be sustained throughout the year?
- How will it be provided each year?
- What professional development / training will new teachers get?

Assessment (Future Agenda Item)

How will Advisors reflect on their own skills as Advisors, skills of their Advisory group, the program as a whole?

How will assessment be used to inform professional development and staff support? How will it be used to make changes to the program?

What will be formal forms of assessment?

How will the community informally reflect on Advisory? How often will staff do this?

How often will Advisees?

Leadership (Future Agenda Item)

How will leadership be structured? Advisory coordinator or co-coordinator, advisory leadership committee, both? Administration led?

What will the role of leadership be? Guide in the content, staff development and support, assessment, assuring all aspects are aligned to the purpose?

What specific jobs will leadership entail?

What structure will leadership use? How often will they meet or what percentage of time will be allotted?