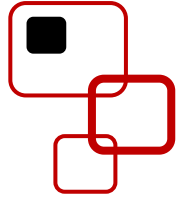


# 5 Keys to Successful Implementation of Advisory

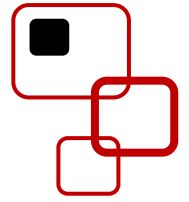


## **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:**

- Consistency/Repetition
- Communication with students – Purpose? Why?
- Incentives (Service Learning, Credit), Graduation, Higher Achievement
- Guest speakers
- Competitions (within and between classes)
- Having one student from each advisory participate as a representative/spokesperson for that advisory
- Accountability → receive pass/fail grade on transcript
- Students participate in planning
- Give students a voice
  - Interview Students, Focus Groups
- Student facilitator
- Differentiated curriculum by grade-level
- Student led/created rituals

## **ENGAGING CURRICULUM:**

- Invite ALL staff to planning meetings
  - Helps create buy-in/ownership
  - Allows for any adult in the building who wants to contribute ideas/feedback to have the opportunity to do so
- Invite students to planning meetings for student input
  - Ask each adult who comes to planning meeting to bring one student with them
- Incorporate a variety of media that is relevant to students, into curriculum (i.e. movie clips, songs, news articles, videos, etc.)
  - This helps to engage students
  - Best if used at beginning of Advisory to capture students' attention
- Have a “bell ringer” at the beginning of every Advisory that students can start independently as soon as they come into class
  - Gets students engaged as soon as they walk in
  - Keeps students busy, even as some students are trickling in late
- Make sure curriculum addresses different modalities
  - Don't have students sitting and writing the whole time. Mix up activities so students get to move around some, have large and/or small group discussions, do some individual reflection, etc.
- Incorporate an activity that allows students to create some sort of concrete product that can be displayed or they can take with them at the end of Advisory
- Once curriculum is created, have multiple people review from different lenses (i.e. teacher lens, counselor lens, admin lens)
- Look at past student and teacher evaluations and incorporate suggested changes/feedback
- Provide curriculum early enough so that teachers have time to review and plan
- Develop continuity from year to year
- Common theme, differentiated as appropriate by grade level
- School-wide promotion of theme/goal
- Relevant to students, through their eyes



## **LOGISTICS:**

- Have ALL handouts/materials prepared for Advisory teachers in advance
  - Have teachers pick up their materials when they arrive at school
- Email curriculum to teachers 3-5 days in advance of Advisory Day
  - In addition to email, put a hard copy of curriculum in teacher mailboxes
- If using any type of media equipment (video, DVD, computer, etc.), do a test run the day before
- If there is going to be any movement, post signs around school directing movement
- If there is a schedule change, provide copies of schedule to EVERY adult in building (including office staff, security, cafeteria workers, engineers, etc.)
- One lead per floor or wing of building
- Have specific procedures/rituals structure
- Educate staff on how to handle issues
- Gender separated advisories for certain issues (i.e. Sex Ed or Healthy Relationships)
- Resources available at all ends of building
- The Advisory team does the nuts and bolts of the advisory
  - Materials
  - A/V equipment
  - Paperwork in order
- Have 2 adults in a room during Advisory (utilize ALL school staff and/or volunteers if necessary)
  - If possible, keep the same 2 adults with the same group of students for each Advisory to build consistent relationships, routine, and a safe space

## **STAFF BUY-IN:**

- Walk through curriculum with entire staff
- Model any activities that may be confusing
- Walk through logistics/schedule of day
- Recognize staff for successes
- Involve all teachers in advisory
- Implementing on-going, targeted professional development for staff
- Vertical alignment between grade levels
- Accountability → evaluation of advisories
- Staff share strategies amongst themselves
- Administration lead by example

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT/BUY-IN:**

- Give it time- Don't stop it if it's not perfect
- Administration is visible in hallways and popping in to advisories
- Administration leads by example and makes time for teachers to prepare
- Administration splits advisories and rotates through as "guest advisors" in a non-evaluative capacity
- Administration possibly taking a role in co/teaching an advisory
- Be aware of teacher's progress
- Give positive/negative feedback
- Professional development
- Make it a priority