

RAP Hour



Ram
Advisory
Period

NO 2 HB

What is advisory?

- Stevenson (1992) stated the purposes of advisory are “to ensure that each student is known well at school by at least one adult who is that youngster’s advocate (the advisor), to guarantee that every student belongs to a peer group, to help every student find ways to be successful, and to promote coordination between home and school.”
- An advisory program is an arrangement whereby one adult and a small group of students have an opportunity to interact on a *scheduled basis* in order to provide a *caring environment* for academic guidance and support.
- An integral component of the middle-school model.

Advisory Benefits

- Social/Emotional Learning Construct
- Facilitates School Connectedness
- Directly promotes ASSET building

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Advisory Components

- **Advocacy** - strengthens adult-student relationships
- **Academic** - teaching academic skills
- **Teaming** - reinforcing team identity, needs, and connections
- **Community** - group identity and connectedness to school
- **Skills** - developmental guidance on basic life skills
- **Invigoration** - relaxing, recharging, community building

Staff Connections

- Each student connected to staff
- Student monitoring
 - Attendance, personal changes, point of contact
- Communication with home
 - For the positive, too!

Changes to Improve Teaming (1)

- Administrative support and monitoring; weekly reports to admin
- Create weekly/daily formats to provide structure
- Designate specific tasks for team members
- Include one elective member as part of team planning, alternating team/personal hour as needed



RAP Advisors (3)

- All certified teachers will have assigned RAP group
- Counselors and admin not assigned to groups but sit in to support, sub for absent RAP leaders, and be available to resolve issues and individual needs
- With each team of 120 have 7 groups of 15-20 students
 - ... 4 core teachers
 - ... 1 support teacher (ESL, IEP...)
 - ... 2 Elective teachers

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RAP Student Placement (4)

- 1) Students first grouped by team
- 2) Students who have elective teacher assigned to their team placed with elective teacher
- 3) Students with support teacher assigned to that teacher
- 4) All others randomly filled on team keeping sex and demographic equity among groups
- 5) Consider switching at semester for personal needs (i.e. personality conflict, need for a certain teacher...)



RAP Curriculum (5)

- Plan for team academics
 - Weekly agendas and planner checks
 - Test study or review
- 1-2 activities per week
 - Learning styles, ASSETS, multiple intelligence, reading and discussion from advisory library...
- Monthly Themes
 - Coincide with Building a Healthy Community
 - Service Learning projects
- Team meetings/forums
 - Awards to all students, celebrations, announcements, topical discussions...
- Play Day!

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RAP Meetings (6)

- First twenty-five minutes of each day
 - Loss of 3 minutes per core, 4 minutes elective, 5 minutes from lunch (extra passing) from current schedule
- 4 days a week in class; one day per week team in large group area

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RAP Administration (7)

- One coordinator for the building
 - Provides training and staff development advisory activities
 - Develops and distributes activity ideas and information; maintains advisory resources
 - Attends district Advisory coordinator meetings
- One point-person from each team
 - Oversees weekly advisory planning on team
 - Communicates with RAP coordinator
- Consideration of addendums to building coordinator and team leaders

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RAP Evaluation (8)

- Compare attendance and tardy data prior to RAP implementation
- Compare % of honor roll and F-list students quarter to quarter, year to year
- School Climate and Connectedness Survey
- Staff and student RAP evaluations
- Document increase or decrease in discipline issues across school and by student with direct intervention
- Compare activity participation year to year



RAP with Parents (9)

- Communicate advisory topics and events through team weekly e-mail newsletters to all parents on team with email access
- Invite parents to team meetings/forums as well as events, awards, and celebrations
- Team leaders or RAP coordinators attend PTSA meetings
- Develop advisory activities that students can work on with parents at home

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