

Secondary Advisory Framework



What is Advisory?

Advisory is an important part of the Polaris K-12 School's program and community. Through Advisory, each student and their family will be familiar with at least one adult/staff member at the school. Students will meet twice a week with their Advisory and will keep the same Advisor for grades 6-12.

What are the benefits of Advisory?

Advisory offers support to students during our Secondary Program. Advisory creates a peer group for students to participate in and insures that there is at least one adult who knows each student well. This adult can then offer advocacy and support to the student in academic and social/emotional situations.

Advisory supporters link students' emotional and social experience to academic achievement. Students in Advisory programs generally perform well academically and have lower drop out and substance abuse rates.

What is the role of the Advisor?

Advisors will serve as a student's main ally, advocate, and academic advisor as the student navigates through our Secondary Program. The Advisor should serve as the primary point of contact between the school and home and facilitate Student Led Conferences. Responsibilities of the Advisor include, but are not limited to the following:

- Providing academic and personal guidance, including academic scheduling
- Demonstrating the values and beliefs of the school
- Facilitating Student Led Conferences
- Collaborating with students, parents, other teachers, and other staff members to address the academic and social/emotional needs of their advisees
- Serving as the primary point of contact between school and home
- Providing academic assistance to struggling students
- In conjunction with the School Counselor, maintaining student Credit Checks and monitoring their progress through the Secondary Program.
- Creating opportunities for students to learn about and practice leadership skills
- Working with the school counselor for college & career planning

What is the role of the Advisee?

The Advisee is the student member of the Advisory program. They are expected to attend and participate in Advisory every day. Responsibilities of the Advisee include, but are not limited to the following:

- Practicing Self Advocacy in regards to their academic and social/emotional needs
- Participating and engaging fully in Advisory activities, classes, the school, community and the world around them
- Communicating their academic and social/emotional needs to Advisors, parents, staff and other students.
- Demonstrating the values and beliefs of the school
- Modeling behaviors and values of the school for other (especially younger) students
- Engaging in leadership opportunities within the school and community.

What are the goals of Advisory?

- **Creating Community:** Advisories should serve as a safe place for students to interact with a peer group to support one another. Furthermore, Advisory is a continuation of the student government and Advisors should facilitate discussions about school and community issues.
- **Academic Advisement:** Advisory allows students to personally monitor their progress through the Secondary Program and set academic goals for the school year. In addition, Advisors assist students in selecting classes, scheduling, and examining options that best suit the students' academic and career needs. Finally, Advisory (with assistance from the school counselor) allows students to create a vision for their future and create postsecondary school or career plans. Students should be assisted in identifying opportunities to prepare them for their postsecondary experiences. Advisors can also offer access to study hall time and peer tutoring.
- **Social/Emotional Learning:** Advisories should help students strengthen their social/emotional skills and assist them in learning to self-regulate their behavior by providing an accepting peer group and adult. Communication and problem solving skills should be addressed in each Advisory.
- **Community Service:** Service is a core value of the Polaris K-12 School philosophy. Advisory should focus on serving the community and creating projects that benefit others. Students should be made aware of social issues in their community and the world and what actions they can take to help alleviate or solve community or global issues. Advisory groups should engage together in community service projects. To this end, Advisories should engage in a minimum of one group community service project each semester.
- **Student Leadership:** Students are expected to engage in activities in which they take an active leadership role. Students are expected to attend Op Group, Ad Board, and other school government meetings. Students are to have a voice in the operation of the school and the community issues around the school. Students are also expected to create organizations such as clubs or groups that allow them to learn and practice their leadership skills. Finally, students are to lead activities in Advisory for their peer group.