

Understanding Our Advisory Program

Supporting Every Student's Journey to Success

Mary M. Knight School District

January 2026

Why Advisory? The Student Need



Academic Success

Managing schoolwork,
organization, and study skills



Life Planning

Preparing for college, career,
and life after graduation



Personal Growth

Developing emotional skills
and healthy relationships

Every middle and high school student needs support in these three critical areas

What Is Advisory?



A dedicated **28-minute period, 4 days per week**



Small groups of 6-22 students with one teacher



Students stay with the **same teacher for 6 years** (7th-12th grade)



Built into the schedule — not an add-on

The Four-Day Structure

MONDAY

Character & Social-Emotional Learning

Building healthy relationships and emotional skills

TUESDAY

Academic Success Support

Organization, study skills, and catching up on work

THURSDAY

College & Career Planning

Exploring options and planning for the future

FRIDAY

Personalized Support

Extra help where needed or enrichment activities

Each day has a specific purpose — students know what to expect and can plan accordingly

The Advisory Teacher

The Heart of the Program

Every student has **ONE** dedicated adult who:

- ✓ **Tracks** their grades, attendance, and progress
- ✓ **Knows** their goals and challenges
- ✓ **Communicates** with families regularly
- ✓ **Advocates** for their needs
- ✓ **Stays with them for 6 years** (grades 7-12)

No student falls through the cracks — everyone has a champion

What Students Are Saying

"I appreciate having time to catch up on missing work."

— Student Advisory Committee Member

"It helps me plan for my future."

— Student Advisory Committee Member

"My advisory teacher really knows me."

— Student Advisory Committee Member

How We Know It's Working

Advisory Teachers Track Four Key Areas:



Student Grades

Monitoring academic performance trends



Missing Assignments

Catching incomplete work early



Attendance Patterns

Identifying and addressing absences



Social-Emotional Well-being

Supporting mental health needs

When we see warning signs, we respond quickly with targeted support

6th Grade: Building the Bridge to Middle School

Mr. Ferguson, 6th Grade Teacher

CharacterStrong Alignment with 7th Grade Advisory

[Mr. Ferguson will share how 6th grade students are using CharacterStrong time to build relationships with their future 7th grade advisors and learn key middle school skills and expectations]

8th Grade: Advisory in Action

Mr. Plaisance, 8th Grade Advisory Teacher

The Advisory Experience from a Teacher's Perspective

[Mr. Plaisance will share specific examples of
how advisory supports his 8th grade students,
including tracking systems, relationship-building,
and student success stories]

Real-world examples from the classroom

The Challenge & The Commitment

Building from the Ground Up

Implementing a comprehensive advisory program in one year has been a significant undertaking for our staff:

- Learning new curriculum and lesson planning
- Implementing new data tracking systems
- Enhancing family communication strategies
- Participating in ongoing professional development

Our teachers' commitment to making this work for students has been remarkable

Looking Ahead

Semester 2: Elementary Mentoring Launch

Secondary students become mentors to elementary classrooms

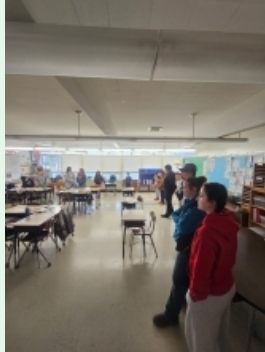
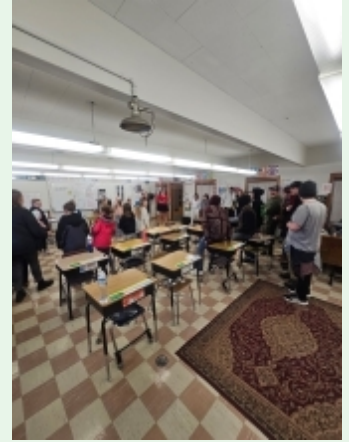
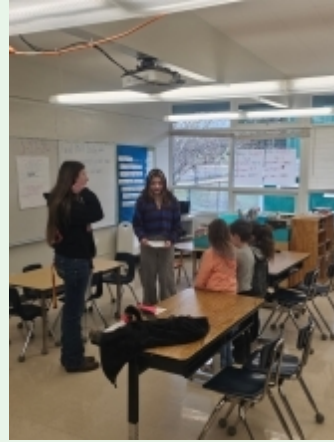
Teaching social-emotional lessons they've learned • Building leadership skills

Next Year & Beyond

- ✓ Gathering feedback from students and staff
- ✓ Refining the program based on what works
- ✓ Continuing to meet our students' evolving needs

Mentor Program in Action

Creating Lasting Connections



Impact

- Elementary students gain role models
- Secondary students practice leadership
- School culture strengthens
- Learning becomes collaborative

Monthly mentor sessions strengthen our K-12 school community

Advisory Mentor Program

Building Leadership Through Service

Monthly Mentorship

Secondary students plan and deliver social-emotional lessons to elementary classrooms

Program Goals:

- Build mentor-mentee relationships
- Develop leadership skills
- Reinforce SEL learning
- Connect elementary and secondary

Teaching others deepens our own learning

Secondary students become role models and leaders in our school community

