

# 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]

# 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



Monthly mentor sessions strengthen our K-12 school community

## Impact

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

# 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

