



# ADVISORY AND EXPLORATORY PROGRAM

An update on Memorial Middle School's program to connect students, to engage students, and to create a more robust school culture.

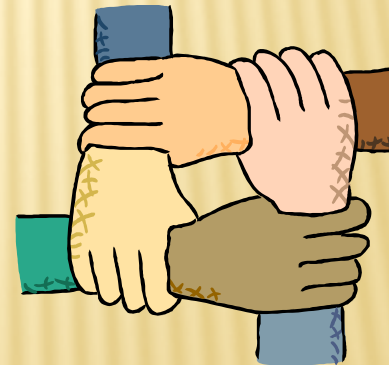
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November 3, 2014

# WHAT IS ADVISORY?

Primary Reason:

- ❖ Advisory is a program where every child is connected to an adult that knows that child well.



# WHAT IS ADVISORY?

## Secondary Reasons:

- ❖ Engage students in their education.
- ❖ Create a more robust school culture.
- ❖ Explore important topics not necessarily found in the curriculum.





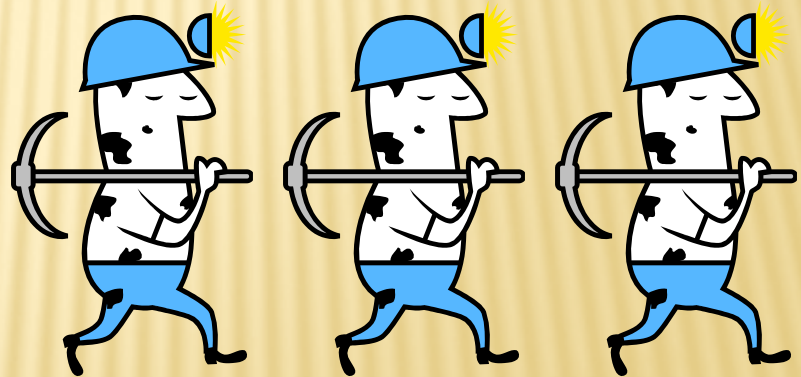
# WHY DO WE NEED ADVISORY?

- ❖ The onset of adolescence is difficult!
  - ❖ Brain development
  - ❖ Hormones
- ❖ School disengagement frequently begins in Middle School.
- ❖ Prevent children from “slipping through the cracks.”



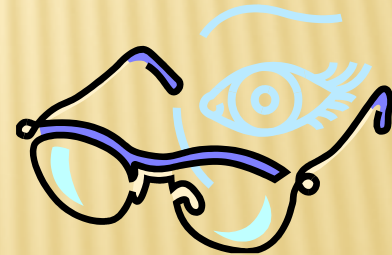
# PREPARATION

- ❖ Faculty Meetings
- ❖ NELMS Conference
- ❖ Summer Seminar
- ❖ PLC Time – Ongoing



# WHAT DOES ADVISORY LOOK LIKE?

- ❖ Students meet twice a week with their teacher/advisor.
- ❖ Teachers lead students through a series of pre-planned activities supporting a particular theme.

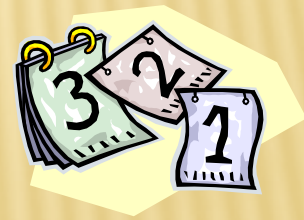




# WHAT DOES ADVISORY LOOK LIKE?

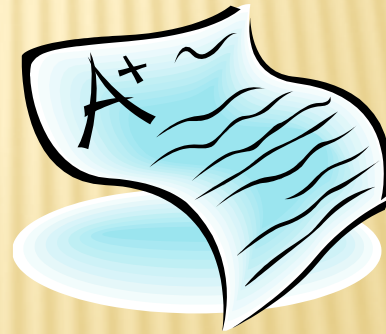
## ❖ Themes

- ❖ September – Getting to know you and me
- ❖ October – Leadership
- ❖ November – Communication
- ❖ December – Generosity
- ❖ January – The Media
- ❖ February – Hero's, Heroine's, and Role Models
- ❖ March – Global Awareness
- ❖ April – Environmental Awareness
- ❖ May – THE FUTURE!!



# WHAT DOES ADVISORY LOOK LIKE?

- ❖ Grade Check-ins
- ❖ Friendly Competitions
  - ❖ Stop and Shop A+
  - ❖ Box Tops
  - ❖ Shoes





# WHAT DOES ADVISORY LOOK LIKE?

During one advisory period, students completed several different learning style inventories to explore how they and their peers learn best.

## Learning Style Inventory

*To gain a better understanding of yourself as a learner, you need to evaluate the way you prefer to learn or process information. By doing so, you will be able to develop strategies which will enhance your learning potential. The following evaluation is a short, quick way of assessing your learning style. No studies have validated this inventory. Its main benefit is to get you to think about yourself, to consider learning alternatives; not to rigidly classify you.*

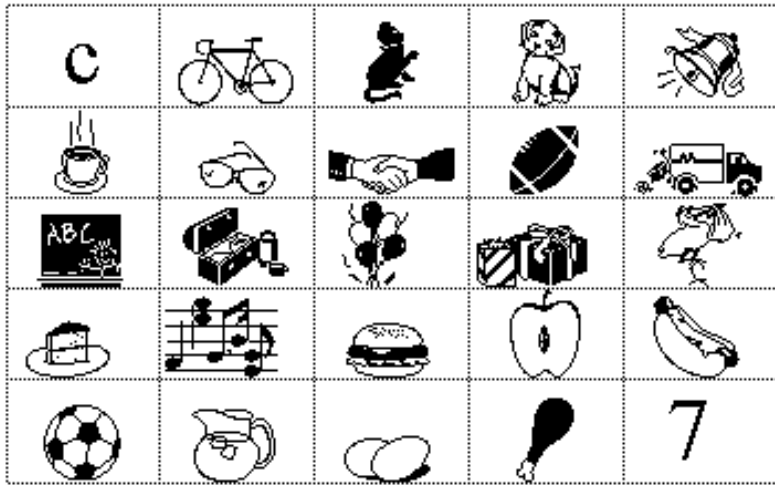
*Answer each question honestly.*

**Instructions:** Click on the appropriate button after each statement. After answering all questions, click on the **Determine Style** button below.

### Learning Styles Inventory

Questions	Seldom	Sometimes	Often
1. I can remember more about a subject through the lecture method with information, explanations and discussion.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. I prefer information to be presented the use of visual aids.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I like to write things down or to take notes for visual review.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. I prefer to make posters, physical models, or actual practice and some activities in class.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I require explanations of diagrams, graphs, or visual directions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. I enjoy working with my hands or making things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. I am skillful with and enjoy developing and making graphs and charts.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. I can tell if sounds match when presented with pairs of sounds.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. I remember best by writing things down several times.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. I can understand and follow directions on maps.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. I do better at academic subjects by listening to lectures and tapes as opposed to reading a textbook.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. I play with coins or keys in pockets.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. I learn to spell better by repeating the words out loud than by writing the word on papers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. I can better understand a news article by reading about it in the paper than by			

# WHAT DOES ADVISORY LOOK LIKE?



A memory game. Students worked in small groups trying to figure out the best way to memorize a selection of unrelated items. The final puzzle had only words and did not contain pictures. Students had to devise a new way to learn this list. After the activity, teachers initiated a discussion on how to we learn as part of the theme “Getting you Know you and me.”

# WHAT DOES A PALEONTOLOGIST LOOK LIKE?

Each Advisory, through a series of activities, created a poster that identifies each student. The group also identified “norms of behavior” to agree on how they wanted to be treated and how they will treat others.





# WHAT DOES ADVISORY LOOK LIKE?



Students formed small groups and worked to turn a classmate into a mummy. What was the point? After the fun, the teacher led a discussion about decision making and leadership.

# WHAT DOES ADVISORY LOOK LIKE?

The Human Knot Game. Students form a circle and grab the hands of the students on the other side of the circle. Then they have to untie the knot. After the activity, the teacher leads a discussion about decision making and leadership.



# THE FUTURE??

- ❖ Expand the number of days?
- ❖ Expand to include RTI (Response to Intervention)?
- ❖ Tie themes into school based activities?
- ❖ Fundraising?

