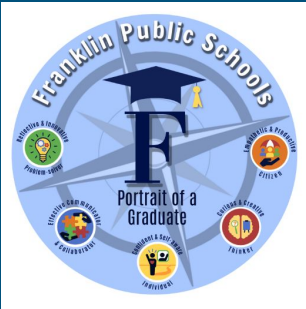




# Middle School Advisory

School Committee Update  
February 14, 2023



# Summer, 2022: Advisory Working Group

Administrators and teachers engaged in the following tasks:

- Reviewed the district's work on SEL and took a look at the role Advisory plays in continuing to meet the SEL needs of our students
- Discussed strengths of previous Advisory models and identified common best practices.
- Developed shared goals for Advisory this year

# Updated Goals of the Middle School Advisory Program

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- Provide opportunities for students to **develop meaningful connections** and build relationships with a small group of peers and their Advisory teacher
- Directly teach and provide opportunities for the **development and practice of SEL skills** and **Portrait of a Graduate skills**
- Celebrate **differences** and embrace **inclusive** practices in a safe place
- Create a **common shared experience** for all students and staff with **opportunities for ongoing input**
- **Develop compassionate citizens** who can effectively communicate their needs, ideas, and hopes and who feel an increased sense of belonging and purpose in the school community

# Summer, 2022: Advisory Working Group continued

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- Developed a **common MS Advisory planning document** to map about weekly Advisory themes and activities
- **Explored resources** including Second Step, work from DEI committee and teacher/building-developed Advisory resources.
- Created a **resource/planning guide for the first two months (8 weeks)** of school to be launched during the first week of school

## Advisory Planning Document Sample



# Fall 2022: Re-launching the MS Advisory Program

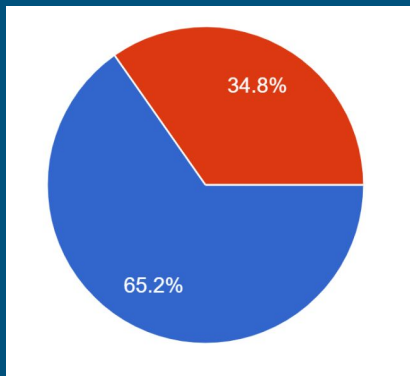
- Roll out re-launched Advisory model to all MS staff as part of 8/29 and 9/2 Professional Development Days.
- 2022-2023 MS Advisory Committee established (administration and teachers) for ongoing planning, collaboration and progress monitoring.
- Seek input from teachers and students throughout the year
  - Staff Survey, Fall 2022
  - Informal Student Check Ins (Fall 2022, Feb 2023)
- Advisory Committee to make ongoing adjustments and recommendations based on this input
- Collaborative decision-making to have MS health teachers continue teaching Second Step, Unit 2 (Bullying and Harassment)

# Student Check-In Samples

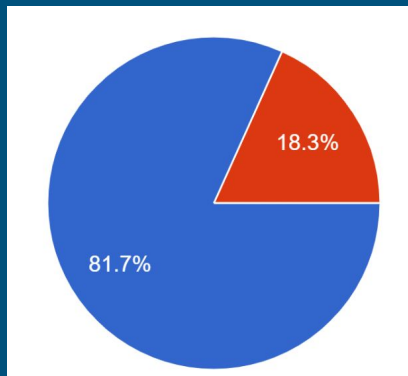
**Opening Week Check-In:** Is there at least one staff person in this building that you have a positive connection with? (that you could go to if you have a question or need help)

**Blue = Yes   Red = Not Yet**

**HMMS Grade 6**



**HMMS Grade 7 & 8**



## Student Quotes about Advisory:

"I liked talking about coping strategies. They helped with working on things that are tough." - 7th grader

"In advisory, we talked about identifying our emotions. Sometimes we don't know what we're feeling and I liked that talk." - 7th grader

"I like that advisory is every day. It's a great way to start my morning slowly." - 6th grader

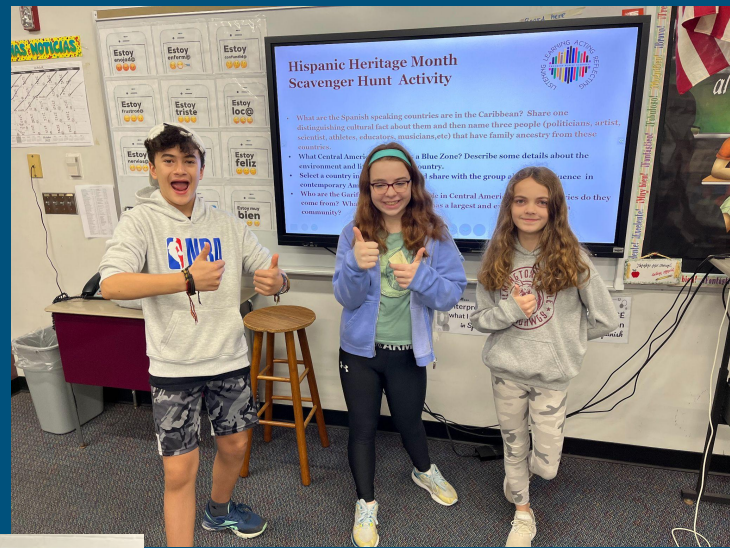
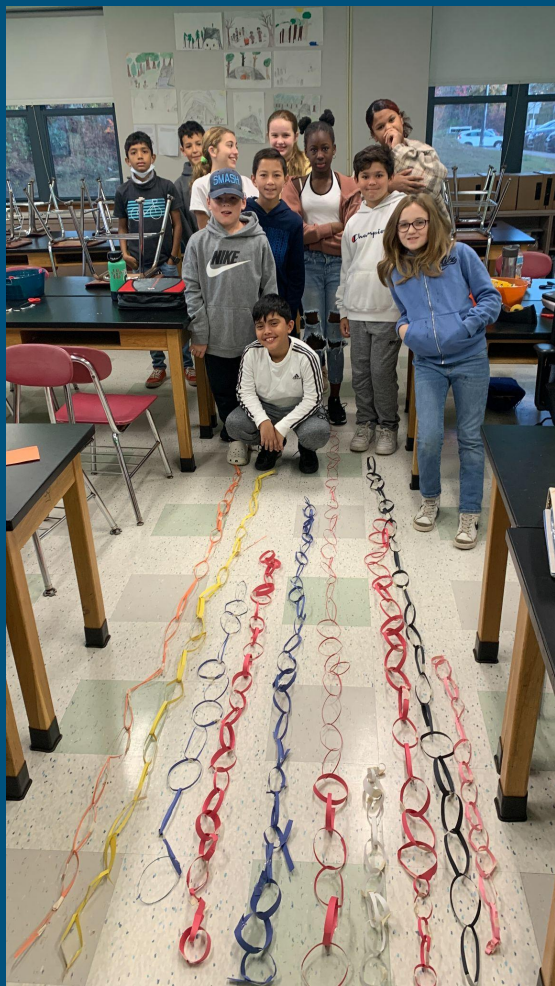
# Sample Themes/Topics in MS Advisory

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- ★ SEL Competencies (Second Step) - Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Responsible Decision-Making, and Relationship Skills.
- ★ Holidays and Celebrations
  - Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Diwali
  - Hispanic Heritage Month
- ★ STEM Week
- ★ Coping Skills & Strategies
- ★ Team Building Activities







Questions?  
Thank you!