

CVU Advisor Guide

Creating Community in Advisory

Suggested ways to create community within an Advisory:

General:

- Create an “Advisory” space on the wall i.e. bulletin board or a section of the wall to put things
- Arrange seating and desks so that all can be included and see one other. Together plan how to use a small space and make it work for everyone.

Talking Ideas:

- Have a set day of the week for open discussion on selected topics
- Seniors share GC topics, early and often
- Full group discussions around student handbook scripts
- Sit with different student each day - try to have a conversation with each student at least once per week
- Get “Question” books and use it:
 - The Book of Questions by Gregory Stock
 - If: (Questions for the Game of Life) by James Saywell
 - The Complete Book of Questions: 1001 Conversation Starters for any Occasion by Garry Poole
 - World Famous Questions by Adam Bunting (see Adam)
- Upperclassmen interview 9th graders - introduce them or video tape the interviews and show when the freshmen become seniors
- “This day in Advisory” - have newsprint (one page/month) and put all major events on it e.g. tests, games, etc., review each year
- Have newspaper available - discuss current events, local, national, international
- Have kids and Advisor share what they “do” for activities/free time - both in and out of school. Demonstrate if possible i.e., musicians can play (help students learn to be a respectful audience), juggle, etc.
- Highlight when kids do something good
- Have Advisor bring in a basket of “stuff” that depicts who they are - share on 1st day - have students replicate
- Fishbowl - younger students can ask older students questions about CVU
- Invite exchange students in to talk about their country
- Make 2 minutes for highlighting essential announcements - Advisor culls through the sheet

Games/Activities:

- Cards, Bopit, UNO, Rock-paper-scissors, thumb-wrestling, paper football, quarters, Trivial Pursuit, Outburst, Jenga, Boogie
- Once per semester pick something to do away from CVU, meet and do it e.g., bowling, movies, mini-golf

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- Pick 1 or 2 TV shows and all watch - discuss the next day
- Halloween - eat donuts off a string with no hands, prizes for top finishers
- Advisees make playdough puppets that represent what they contribute to Advisory - display in Advisory space
- Make copies of puzzles from Sunday paper
- Have newspaper available and do word jumble or crossword puzzle
- House Office bowling - get small wooden balls & pins from Creative Habitat and set up on table - bowl, keep score, etc.
- Shared Advisory “pools” e.g., football, NCAA basketball

Food (Important the students are part of providing the food - shared responsibility):

- Pancakes/waffles on electric griddle
- BBQ inside on griddle
- Thanksgiving dinner just before the break (check with Peter)
- Bring snack of choice for student’s birthday - add candle, if possible
- Dinner out once per semester - all pay for own meals (reasonable place) - Advisor picks up the tip - during the spring, celebrate the seniors
- Cereal & milk
- “Kettle Korn Wednesday” or any tradition
- Food prizes for honor roll
- All chip money in and make a COSTCO run - daily food available, try for balance with healthy alternatives

Other:

- Go to their events e.g. sports, drama, musicals, clubs, where they work - try to connect with parents
- Create Advisory CD of favorite songs - give to Advisee on his/her birthday
- Make poster with students’ names, birthday and favorite song, food, etc., post in Advisory
- Sing Happy Birthday as a group - solo, as good or as bad as you like
- Call home if someone is absent from Advisory for 2 or 3 days.
- Pair up with another Advisory on a selected day and do something - eat, mini competition, take a walk, etc.
- Take digital photos of all Advisees
 - Have kids personalize their photos on paper and post in area
 - Put photos in album, save - see Advisory history in photos
- Do informal “peer tutoring”
- Write comments on grade report each quarter
- Play music in Advisory
- Bring in camping/yoga mats, relax on the floor
- Draw on the board, if you have one
- Send a post card to returning Advisees, “welcome back” and send a post card to graduated seniors, “good luck”