

# ADVISORY AT LMK

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2014-2015

# Goals of Advisory

- Students will deepen their understanding of the different types of communication
- Students will increase their self-awareness
- Students will become more aware of their role and the roles of others in a dialogue.
- Students will learn to debate and evaluate with a more critical lens
- Students will learn how to take an informed viewpoint and debate it appropriately

# Big Ideas for Advisory

- The benefits of communicating appropriately
- How can **communication skills** intentionally or unintentionally affect those around us?
- How to be more **reflective** in our communication skills
- (Grade 7 and 8) How does one's **self awareness** impact how we communicate with others?

# Connections to Common Core

- Students will participate in conversations with diverse partners, building on the ideas of others, while clearly communicating their own thoughts
- Students will critically evaluate another person's point of view and rationale

# Structure

- Meets every Wednesday for 20 minutes
- Groups of 10-12
- Flexible to meet the needs each advisory group
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade curriculum is in its second year with a focus on the skills needed for communication
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade are following new plans in which the idea of how being more self aware can influence our communication skills and styles
- Next year there will be grade specific advisory plans with 8<sup>th</sup> grade looking at how their communication affects the world around them

# Advisory Themes

- Students learn about communication through the discussion of sub-topics that are meaningful to the middle school experience
- Sub-topics are introduced through the use of text, videos, discussion, artwork, and writing that stimulates student thought and conversation

# Grade 6 Topics

- September- Getting to Know You/ Introductions
  - Groups spend some time getting to know their group and acclimate to a new school culture
- October- Communication
  - Groups discuss communication in explicit ways.
  - Types of verbal and non-verbal communication are analyzed, modeled, and discussed

# Grade 6 Topics continued

- November/ December- Gossip and Rumors
  - Groups read text and analyze how gossip and rumors are spread and the effect they have on an individual or a community
- January/ February- Living in the Digital Age
  - Groups will discuss the various changes in technology that affect them in their daily lives
  - Texts and video clips are used to support these discussions about the benefits and potential pitfalls of modern technology



# Grade 6 Topics continued

- March/ April- Academic Pressures and Stress
  - Groups discuss different stressors that affect middle school students
- May/ June- Peer Pressure/ Transitions
  - Groups discuss how peer pressure effects their lives and strategies to cope with peer pressure
  - Groups spend time rotating in with seventh grade advisory teachers to get an early glimpse into seventh grade life

# Grade 7 and 8 Topics

- September/ October- Getting to Know You and Self Awareness
  - Groups spend a few sessions getting to know each other through experiential group building tasks
- November/ December- Prejudices and Stereotypes
  - Through the use of videos and text, groups analyze what prejudices and stereotypes are and where they come from
  - Students will evaluate who and what influences them and how that shapes their belief systems
  - Groups also discuss how prejudices and stereotypes make others feel

# Grade 7 and 8 Topics continued

- January/ February/ March- Diversity/ Tolerances
  - Groups look at the diverse make up of the world and school community around us
- March/ April/ May- Gender
  - Groups will look at aspects of how gender is treated in our society/ community
  - Issues of equity and perception will be discussed
- June- Transition and Celebrations
  - Groups will celebrate their year and reflect on their experience.
  - Seventh grade groups will spend some time with eighth grade teachers
  - Eighth grade groups will spend time with sixth grade teachers reflecting on their growth while at LMK

# Next Steps for Advisory

- Continue revising previous year's work
- Create a grade 8 curriculum around global communication
- Connection to parents and families