

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I'd like to introduce myself as your student's Advisory teacher this year. Our Advisory program is a critical component of our middle school because it connects a teacher (the advisor) with a group of students (the advisees) to provide academic and social-emotional support and to strengthen the community of the school. Students will meet in their Advisory groups with me regularly throughout the school year for a set period of time.

Our Advisory program uses a purposeful, structured approach called Responsive Advisory Meeting that was developed by *Responsive Classroom*® specifically for middle school students. Responsive Advisory Meeting sets the tone for developing respectful and trusting relationships among peers and between students and their Advisory teacher, builds meaningful connections, and meets students' developmental needs to belong, feel significant, and have fun. It provides a safe place for students to strengthen their academic and social-emotional skills, explore what interests them in greater depth, and develop new skills and talents.

Responsive Advisory Meeting uses a four-component structure to ensure that Advisory is purposefully planned and productive. In brief, the components are:

- **Arrival Welcome**—Students are welcomed by their advisor as they enter the classroom.
- **Announcements**—As student settle into their seats, they read and respond to an interactive message the advisor wrote for them.
- **Acknowledgments**—In small groups or with partners, students share a piece of news about themselves or their ideas in response to the announcements message prompt.
- **Activity**—The whole group does an activity that's focused on the specific purpose of the meeting, such as building positive connections or strengthening academic skills.

Each meeting closes with student reflection related to that day's topic.

I encourage you to talk about Advisory with your child regularly throughout the year. If you'd like to learn more about our Advisory program or have any questions, please contact me. For more information about *Responsive Classroom* and Responsive Advisory Meeting, visit www.responsiveclassroom.org.

I'm looking forward to a great year in Advisory with your child!