

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!

Life Story

Section 1: _____	Section 2: _____
Section 3: _____	Section 4: _____
Section 5: _____	Section 6: _____

_____ LSF Chart

Looks Like	Sounds Like	Feels Like

SMART Goal

Set SMART Goal

By _____
(date)

Put In Effort

Things I have to do to
achieve my goal

See Small Changes

Proof that effort
is working

Target Date



What progress have I made?

What behaviors help me achieve my goal? (I'll do more of these.)

What behaviors hinder my goal? (I'll watch out for these.)

THE BEST GOALS ARE:
Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Relevant
Time-Bound

My Success Plan

Name: _____

Step 1—Getting Organized

One area of being organized that I'm going to work on is _____.
In order to improve in this area, the steps I'm going to take are:



Step 2—Strengthening My Study Skills

What are some new study strategies and skills I'm going to practice?

Quizzes and Tests	Homework and Other Assignments

Step 3—Strengthening My Test-Taking Skills

What are some new test-taking strategies and skills I'm going to practice?

Test-Taking Strategies	Test-Taking Skills

Study Strategies

- ➔ Practice with flashcards
- ➔ Ask someone to quiz you
- ➔ Read; reread
- ➔ Highlight your notes
- ➔ Summarize
- ➔ Read your notes; read your notes aloud
- ➔ Organize your papers so you are working with everything you need
- ➔ Outline or make a graphic version of written content (lists, columns, Venn diagram)
- ➔ Quiz yourself
- ➔ Write key ideas over and over until you feel confident you know them
- ➔ Use a worksheet as a quiz by covering over the answers and re-doing it
- ➔ Look over old quizzes and correct any mistakes
- ➔ Look over the returned assignments for the unit
- ➔ Answer study guide questions
- ➔ Explain the key ideas of the topic to someone else
- ➔ Review the parts of the assignments that you didn't understand the first time
- ➔ Watch teacher-suggested videos or listen to teacher-suggested audio recordings

Add your ideas here:

Test-Taking Tips

<p style="text-align: center;">Multiple Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Evaluate all the answers before you mark your answer sheet.◆ If you don't know the answer, eliminate the ones you know are wrong. Then make an educated guess.	<p style="text-align: center;">Add your ideas here:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Test With Only One Right Answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Work at a steady pace.◆ Show all your work in case you need to retrace your steps. Write neatly!◆ Clearly identify your answer.	<p style="text-align: center;">Add your ideas here:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Always read the prompt first to know what you're being asked to write about.◆ Organize your thoughts. Use a Venn diagram or other graphic organizer.◆ Create a basic outline. Then add details as you write.	<p style="text-align: center;">Add your ideas here:</p>

SMART Goal Milestones

SMART Goal: _____

Milestone One: _____

Step 1:

Step 2:

Step 3:

Milestone Two: _____

Step 1:

Step 2:

Step 3:

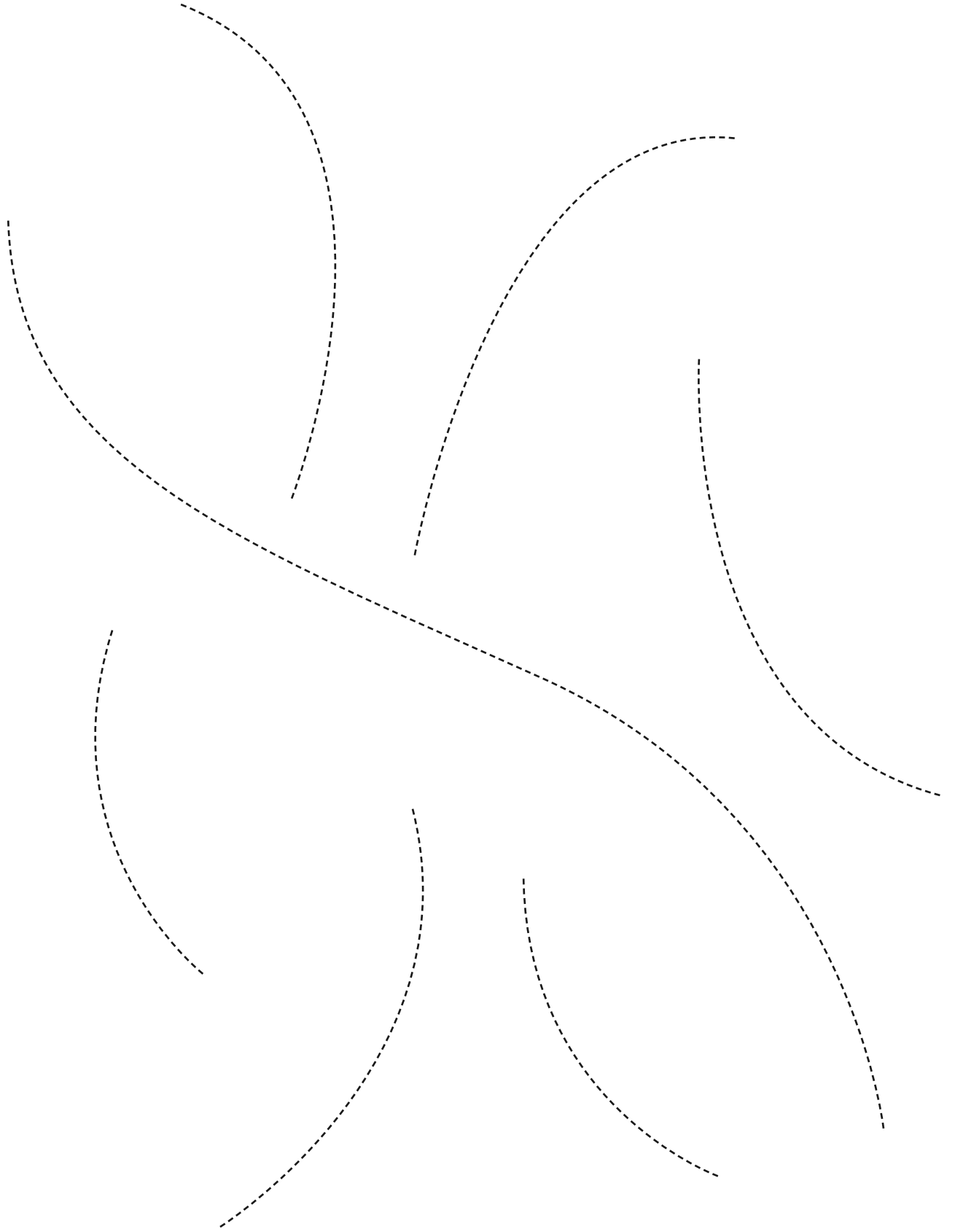
Milestone Three: _____

Step 1:

Step 2:

Step 3:

Word Splash



People We Admire

Honest
Friendly
Happy
Kind
Generous
Positive
Courageous
Nice

Student-Led Advisory Plan

[Title]

Arrival welcome

Announcements

Point out today's key school and team events.

Acknowledgments

[Title]

Activity

[Title]

Reflection:

Acknowledgments

Around-the-Table Chat	Life Story #5
Around-the-Table Sharing	Maître d'
Card Match	Making Connections
Compliment Greeting	Mix and Mingle
Cooperative Sentences	Mix and Mingle to Music
Debate Duos	Never-Ending Word
Finding Common Themes	One-Minute Brainstorm
Four Corners	One-Minute Greeting
Friendship Calculator	One-Minute Speech
Giving Compliments	One-Sentence Sharing
Group Brainstorm	One Thing
Group Sharing	Partner Chat
Hand Up, Pair Up	Pros and Cons
Hey There Compliments	Silent Quotes
Humdingers	Snowball
I Am/We Are	Standing Partner Chat
Incorporations	Swap Meet
Info Exchange	Table Talk
Inside-Outside Circles	What's Your Advice?
Interview	What's the News?
Interview Partner	What's Your Strategy?
Keys to Success	Word Splash

Activities

Achieve-a-thon	Hand Up, Pair Up	Shared Truths
Advice Columnists	Hands Up for Empathy	Silent Quotes Trade
Amazing Analogies	In the Bag	Six Corners
Analyzing Data	Info Exchange	SMART Goal Milestones
Ball Toss	Interview	Snap Wink
Beat the Clock	I've Never...	Snowball
Body Drumming	Just Like Me	Solar Power
Carousel	Keys to Success Performance	Sound Check
Celebrate Diversity	The Last Word	Speak Up Against Bullying Campaign
Common Commonalities	Let It Rain	Swap Meet
Consensus Mapping	Life Story	Switch
Creating a PSA	Love It or Leave It!	Tag Team Graffiti
Creating a SMART Goal	Ma Zinga	Three-Person Machine
Debate Duos	Maître d'	Transformation
Distract-a-thon	Mirrors	Venn-ting
Do What I Said, Not What I Say	Museum Walk	Vote On It
Elevens	No Way	Walk, Stop
Empathy Role-Play	Number Freeze	What's the Outcome?
Encore	Picture This	What's Your Advice?
Fact or Fiction	Quote Makers	Word Splash
Four Corners	Scrambled Words with a Side of Toast	World Café
Graffiti	Shake It Down	Zoom

Info Exchange Question Cards

How good a listener are you? Explain.

When you're with friends, do you tend to do most of the talking or very little of the talking, OR does everyone get equal time? Explain.

How could you show a classmate that you are truly listening to them?

When you share your thoughts with people, how effective is your communication?

If you are arguing with someone, is it more important to be correct OR to be heard? Why?

What makes someone a good listener? Explain.

What does being open-minded mean to you? How important is it to you that your classmates are open-minded?

When you're interested in something a classmate is saying, how do you let them know?

If you disagree with what someone says, how might you respond respectfully?

How would you define the word "manners"? Elaborate.

Do you think arguments can help you learn more about a topic, opinion, or person? Why or why not?

Are you comfortable giving presentations in front of the whole class? Why or why not?

I Am/We Are ABCs

Attitude	Behavior	Communication Skills
Positive	Kind	Active listener
Confident	Friendly	Clear speaker
Outgoing	Attentive	Question asker
Hopeful	Caring	Neutral body language
“Can do”	Helpful	Respectful of others’ ideas

Add your ideas here:

Attitude	Behavior	Communication Skills

Silent Quotes

<p>“Life is really simple . . .</p> <p>CONFUCIUS</p>	<p>. . . but we insist on making it complicated.”</p> <p>CONFUCIUS</p>
<p>“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive . . .</p> <p>MAYA ANGELOU</p>	<p>. . . and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”</p> <p>MAYA ANGELOU</p>
<p>“No act of kindness, no matter how small, . . .</p> <p>AESOP</p>	<p>. . . is ever wasted.”</p> <p>AESOP</p>
<p>“Freedom is not worth having if . . .</p> <p>MAHATMA GANDHI</p>	<p>. . . it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.”</p> <p>MAHATMA GANDHI</p>
<p>“Be sure you put your feet in the right place . . .</p> <p>ABRAHAM LINCOLN</p>	<p>. . . then stand firm.”</p> <p>ABRAHAM LINCOLN</p>
<p>“The most courageous act is . . .</p> <p>COCO CHANEL</p>	<p>. . . still to think for yourself. Aloud.”</p> <p>COCO CHANEL</p>
<p>“The power to question . . .</p> <p>INDIRA GANDHI</p>	<p>. . . is the basis of all human progress.”</p> <p>INDIRA GANDHI</p>
<p>“With a new day . . .</p> <p>ELEANOR ROOSEVELT</p>	<p>. . . comes new strength and new thoughts.”</p> <p>ELEANOR ROOSEVELT</p>

Silent Quotes Template

Consensus Map



Quadrant

1

Quadrant

2

CONSENSUS

Quadrant

3

Quadrant

4

People and Places in Our Community

Doctor	Patient
Veterinarian	Pet Owner
Park Ranger	Hiker
Cashier	Consumer
Mechanic	Car Owner
Coach	Athlete
Accountant	Small Business Owner
Research Librarian	Student

Communication Role-Play

Scenario: Gabriel accidentally spills paint on Mike’s new sneakers during art class. Mike tells Gabriel he better meet him in the boys’ bathroom at lunch to pay his debt with a fight. Gabriel talks to his friend Anthony about it.

Spoken

Thoughts

GABRIEL

Better to just get it over with.

[I don’t want to fight Mike, but If I don’t show up Mike will torment me forever.]

ANTHONY

If you fight Mike, you’ll get busted and then you won’t be able to go to the game.

[We’ve been waiting all month for this game.]

GABRIEL

Not if you’re lookout. Just watch the door.

[Please figure out a way to get me out of this.]

ANTHONY

Tell Mike you’ll just pay for the damage. It’s not like you did it on purpose. He needs to get over it already.

[I don’t want to get dragged into this. I had nothing to do with what happened.]

GABRIEL

I’d have to mow lawns for the rest of my life to pay him back. And even if I could, it doesn’t matter. Those sneakers are sold out everywhere. I’m doing this, with or without you. But if you’re really my friend, you’ll be there.

[I can’t see any way out of this.]

ANTHONY

I’m telling you right now—this is a big mistake, Gabriel.

[There’s got to be another way out of this, but I don’t know how to help my friend.]

What would you do if you were Gabriel? If you were Anthony?

What's the Outcome?

FELIX'S DILEMMA

Story #1

Felix's best friend Sean asks Felix to go with him to a party on Saturday night. But the last time they went to a party together, Sean ditched Felix for his crush. Felix asks Sean for details and discovers that Sean's crush will be at this party, too. Felix says he needs to think about it, and Sean says if Felix doesn't go, he isn't a real friend.

Write or discuss your ideas for how this story might end.

What's the Outcome?

ANJU'S DILEMMA

Story #2

Anju and Christina have been paired together to work on a science project for school, but so far Anju has done all the work. Christina finally agrees to go to the library with Anju after school to work on the project together. Anju gathers all the research books they need and divides up the remainder of the work. Christina plays a game on her phone, ignoring Anju's reminders that they're running out of time.

Write or discuss your ideas for how this story might end.

Friendship Calculator

Think of one friendship that you have. Circle the column that's true about that friendship—whether it's how you have treated your friend or how your friend has treated you.

Friendship	Almost Always	Sometimes	Almost Never
Have lots in common and respect each other's differences	1	2	3
Only hang out with each other; anyone else is off limits	3	2	1
Celebrate our accomplishments and when possible attend each other's extracurriculars (like sporting events, talent competitions, and musical performances)	1	2	3
Expect them to do all the things I want to do	3	2	1
Understand that everyone makes mistakes and apologize/accept apologies when feelings get hurt	1	2	3
Gossip about each other or tell other people our secrets	3	2	1
Talk about anything and everything	1	2	3
Only get together for the good times—disappear when times are tough	3	2	1
Are honest and loyal and can trust each other completely	1	2	3
Try to change each other	3	2	1
Score (tally up each column)			
Total Score (add each totaled column)			

Friendship Calculator— Check Your Score

10–13 (Rocking It) No doubt about it; you value your friendship and work hard at it! You really know how to maintain balance between your friendship and other parts of your life like family, extracurriculars, and school. You're each other's support system—and biggest fans! Keep on doing what you're doing. Your friendship is rock solid.

14–18 (Working It) The foundation of your friendship is strong. You've got the essentials down—like communication, respect, loyalty, and honesty—and that's what makes your friendship work. So when things don't always play out the way they do in your head, just remember to talk it out—and that means listening, too. Keep doing what you're doing well (all the 1s you circled), and more of it! When it comes to positive and healthy friendship, you're on your way to the top!

19–23 (Under Construction) You have the necessary material for friendship like common interests and having fun when you hang out. Now it's time to build upon it. Keep on doing what you're doing well (all the 1s you circled), and more of it! Also try to find ways to change your 2s and 3s to a 1. Remember to talk things out, and that means listening, too. When you're working at it, your friendship can only get stronger.

24–30 (Danger Zone) Help! Friendship should be based on mutual respect, trust, and communication. How can you change those 2s and 3s into 1s? Think about why you became friends in the first place, and start there—talk it out, and that means listening, too. If just thinking about talking scares you, it's okay to walk away. Everyone deserves positive and healthy friendships.