

Advisory--Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Advisory?

The Advisory program at CVHS will serve as a primary support system for each student on campus. It will also be one of the most important channels of communication between the school and parents.

Advisory is a daily class that meets 2nd hour for 25 minutes. Its focus is to provide relevant skills for students based on their grade level in high school. In Advisory, students will be able to build community, find a sense of belonging, learn helpful life skills, receive academic advising and coaching, and build relationships with a supportive adult who will monitor their academics, behavior, and overall well-being.

Because the Advisory curriculum is differentiated by grade level, freshman will receive different lessons than seniors. While freshmen need skills to help them better transition from junior high to high school, seniors require skills that will serve them beyond high school. Sophomores and juniors also have unique needs that are specifically addressed in their grade-level-specific Advisory.

2. How are students assigned to Advisory?

Existing students at CVHS are given the opportunity to select five teachers to whom they want to be assigned next year for Advisory. The administration's goal is to assign students to one of the five teachers on their list whenever possible.

New students to CVHS will be assigned alphabetically to an Advisor.

In either case, students will remain with this teacher from year to year for as long as they are students at CVHS.

3. Who are Advisors?

Advisors are certified, content-area teachers on campus who will teach the Advisory class based on a standardized curriculum that is tailored for each level. Every year, as students progress to the next grade level, Advisors will facilitate lessons as part of a curriculum that is specifically designed for students' grade levels.

4. What does an Advisor do?

The advisor serves as a mentor and facilitator for a student during his or her time at CVHS. The advisor leads activities for students based on their grade level, oversees students' progress regarding grades, behavior, and attendance, schedules tutoring, offers course guidance, and teaches relevant life skills.

Advisors see students daily for 25 minutes, helping to guide them throughout their academic career at CVHS. Advisors serve as another resource to assist students with personal issues, whether lending an ear or helping students to find specific assistance on or off campus. Because students are part of a teacher's Advisory during their entire time at CVHS, strong relationships form between students and Advisors that promote mentorship, trust, and mutual respect. As a result, Advisors are better able to communicate with parents, counselors, administrators, and other teachers on behalf of the student.

5. When will Advisory meet?

Advisory meets daily as a 2nd hour class for 25 minutes.

6. How is Advisory organized?

Advisories will be aligned with a specific administrator and counselor who will follow that group of students until graduation. This alignment will allow students to continue to grow positive relationships with these adults throughout their high school careers.

7. Will students receive a grade for Advisory?

For the 2011-2012 school year, Advisory will not issue grades.

8. Is Advisory like a class?

Yes and no. Unlike other classes at CVHS, Advisory lasts 25 minutes instead of 55 minutes. Similar to other classes, Advisory is taught based on a standardized, grade-level specific curriculum. Students will engage in relevant activities that will help them become more successful in high school and beyond. Attendance in Advisory is mandatory and will be reported daily.

9. Will this affect the length of the school day at CVHS?

No, the length of the school day is the same. However, the one-hour lunch period will be shortened by 25 minutes to accommodate this new period in the school day.

10. How will Advisory impact EVIT students?

Students who attend EVIT during the morning session will not be assigned to an Advisory since the course takes place during 2nd hour. Afternoon EVIT students will be assigned to an Advisory.

11. Why is CVHS implementing Advisory at this time?

CVHS is constantly looking for ways to do what is best for our students in order to help them succeed in high school and beyond.

Studies show that adolescents learn best when they have a sense of community and connection, when they feel heard and known, when they feel safe enough to take risks. We don't want any of our students to "fall through the cracks." With daily contact in Advisory, students are able to build community, find a sense of belonging, decrease anonymity and alienation, receive academic advising and coaching, and build relationships with a supportive adult who can monitor their academics, behavior and overall well-being.