

Morning Meetings

Program

(Formerly Homeroom)

# Purpose & Goals

- Build community among students.
- Create a caring, respectful classroom
- Academic advising and coaching.
- Know, monitor, and mentor students.
- Help students adjust to the school and new grade level.
- Problem solving.
- Compliment the SAIL program.
- Compliment Lasallian goals.

# Advisor's Role

- **Know** the students.
- Develop and maintain learning and student profiles.
- Develop your own advisory group's goal(s) each year.
- Serve as member of Student Success Team (counselor, teacher, advisor, SAIL coordinator) for your group's struggling students.
- Communicate with counselors and SAIL coordinator.
- Maintain contact with parents.
- Share insights on how to improve the program.
- Attendance

# Benefits

- Time built into the day...
  - Academic help.
  - Breaks up the tempo of the day for students and teachers.
  - Does not rob students or teachers of instructional time.
  - Potential for grade level meetings (pre-retreat, dances, games, etc.)
  - Breaks down anonymity and fosters a sense of belonging.
  - Compliments counselors' knowledge of students.

# Structure

- Daily (except liturgy schedules).
- 15 minutes.
- No announcements, “fenced” quality time.
- “Loose” and “Tight” days
  - Loose days: Open to advisor or outside interests (i.e. talk to all 10<sup>th</sup> graders about retreat).
  - Tight days: Themes/Units/Lessons (we build as a community) per calendar schedule.
- Tailored Themes/Units by academic grade level. Interests/Issues will differ by grade
- Loose days on server calendar available for all to see and reserve dates → electronic coordination.
- Still use homeroom folders.

# Schedule

Bell Schedule SY 2009-2010

Mod	Regular (Cir. 3 Reg)	Alternate (Cir. 3 Alt)	Liturgy (Cir. 3 Hol)	Late Start (Cir. 4 Reg)	Exams (Cir. 4 Hol)
	7:40	7:40	7:40	9:00	7:55
1	7:45	7:45	7:45	9:05	8:00
2	8:13	8:08	8:09	9:28	8:05
	8:36	8:26	8:29	9:46	9:40
3	8:40	8:30	8:33	9:50	9:50
4	9:03	8:48	8:52	10:08	9:55
	9:26	9:06	9:12	10:26	11:30
Morn Mtg	9:30 – 9:45	9:10 – 9:25	LIT 9:16 – 10:20	10:30 – 10:45	
	9:45	9:05	9:15	10:35	

- Every day but Liturgy Schedule
- Mid Morning
- Days at 2:45 pm

# Example-9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Week One
  - Monday (Tight): Ice Breaker & Introductions
  - Tuesday (Loose): Individual Advisor decides
  - Wednesday (Tight): Team building game
  - Thursday (Loose): Link crew presents to entire 9<sup>th</sup> grade in café.
  - Friday (Tight): Class discusses protocols for group discussions/problem-solving

# Themes

- Common to all grade levels initial year only!
  - Ice-Breaking & Introductions
  - Team building, cohesion, sense of identify
  - Group discussion protocols
  - Learning Preferences
  - Establish academic goals
  - Dealing with bullying behaviors
  - Integrity
  - Respect (individual, property, gender)
  - More to follow...

# Potential Themes

- 9<sup>th</sup>
  - New year, new school, new opportunities
  - Transition to high school
  - Respect (self, gender)
  - Spiritual development
  - Drug/Alcohol temptation
- 10<sup>th</sup>
  - PLAN
  - New grade
  - Choices
  - Respect (self, gender)
  - Spiritual development
  - Drug/Alcohol temptation
- 11<sup>th</sup>
  - ACT
  - College Aps
  - Prom
  - Dance Etiquette
  - Being a role model
  - Respect (self, gender)
  - Spiritual development
  - Drug/Alcohol temptation
- 12<sup>th</sup>
  - College Aps
  - Prom
  - Transition to college
  - AP exams
  - Dance Etiquette
  - Being a man
  - Being a role model
  - Call to service
  - Respect (self, gender)
  - Spiritual development
  - Drug/Alcohol temptation

# Discussions, Part I

- Pearls
  - Set ground rules first
  - Classroom arrangement
  - Keep it short
  - Begin with easier topics
  - Positive reinforcement
  - Suggestion box
- Ground Rules
  - Teacher initiated, but student led
  - Listen to all
  - Be respectful
  - Focus on topic
  - One person talks at a time.

# Discussions, Part II

- Student Led
  - Name the issue
  - Students must listen, but not required to share
  - Enforces rules
  - Ends meeting
- Problem Solving
  - Gather specific info
  - Define
  - Develop action plan
  - Assess the plan

# Coming Soon... 😊

- Creation of “Navigator Book” for each Advisor over the summer
  - Table of Contents
  - Student Learning Preference Activities
  - Student Profile Sheet
  - Sample Activities and Themes
- Prepared lessons for 1<sup>st</sup> week
  - Ice Breaker/Introductions
  - Team Building

# Stay Flexible!

- Take notes as we go
  - Mind toward improving program
- Ongoing changes on the fly
- Systemic changes at the end of the year
- Questions, suggestions, sharing → see Colleen B. and Dave S.