

NEW SCHOOL YEAR ORIENTATION



Time Required: 30-45 minutes

Principles: Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

Objectives (Students will...): Build upon activities and experiences that help the individual student become a contributing member of a school community. Also, Learn about the relationships between rules, laws, safety, and the protections of individual rights and the rights of others and the responsibilities to contribute to a successful school year.

GOAL: Students will become familiar with the rules, personnel, and expectations of their school.

Activity Statement:

Students will participate in grade-level advisory classes to discuss some of the school expectations, traditions and routines.

Materials:

1. Each high school will need to gather information that is unique to it. Suggestions include: the bell schedule, map of the building, school rules, supply lists, names of staff, etc.
2. Individual Student Schedules
3. Student Handbooks (one per student)
4. Starter Packet -- Free/Reduced Lunch Form, Internet Policy and other materials needing to be filled out by students and/or parents.

Procedures:

1. During advisory hand out materials to students and discuss (using discussion questions below). *See Handouts for sample schedules and ideas.* Give students advisory brochure and ask them to discuss in groups how they may benefit from advisory.
2. Select a Team Building Exercise from resources on ADVISORY website or do “round robin” having students introduce themselves and give one fact they know that may help another student. For example, if you have someone from the football team in your student advisory, you might have that student talk about the football schedule or how to get tickets for games.
3. Key issues to cover during this session may include:
 - Ice Breakers
 - Student Handbook/Planner
 - School Rules
4. Identify key people and places including their school counselor, school nurse and principal/administrators.
5. Talk to students about sports and clubs including academic honorary clubs.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Review your schedule to make sure it appears the way you think it should. Are all of the classes there that you need for this quarter? Do you see any errors? **Schedule changes will ONLY be made due to credit deficiency and/or scheduling errors (see below)
2. Open your handbook and let's review some of the important items together. (Review items.) Do you notice any changes from last year? New staff?
3. Review each section of the handbook and have students answer quiz.

Additional Resources:

Handout 1 – “Sample Schedule for First Week of School” –bell schedule

Handout 2 – “Sample Advisory Lessons for Day 1”

Handout 3 – “Checklist for Returned Materials”

Active Listening <http://www.studygs.net/listening.htm>

Team Building <http://wilderdom.com/games/InitiativeGames.html>

Respect <http://eqi.org/respect.htm>

Extension Activities:

Meet with advisory students individually once a week to review grades, assist with homework, explore college/career options, etc., keep binders up to date

Activity:

Students can refer to school counselor, <http://www.collegeboard.org/> and/or <http://www.nvcis.intocareers.com/>