

Freshman Advisory Update



Overview

Making PVHS a smaller place one student at a time...

The purpose of the Freshman Advisory is to provide students with academic support, foster relationships, encourage peer mentoring, and provide an adult on campus to serve as an advocate for each freshman. Please see the attached full year schedule which explains lessons that address each of the above components.

After a successful Advisory pilot program during the 2006-2007 school year, data showed fewer F's, fewer dropouts, higher overall GPA's, greater connectedness to the school, and stronger relationships with classmates for the students in the Advisory group compared to the non-Advisory group (Each contained approximately 250 freshmen). Freshman surveys revealed Advisory as an overwhelmingly positive experience that supported student needs.

Thirty-three volunteer staff members are currently participating in this year's pilot program. The staff hopes to assist

freshmen in the transition to high school by creating a safe, small environment where freshmen can express themselves, learn, and have fun.

At Freshman Orientation, each student was placed in a group with approximately nine other students and then paired with two Link Crew leaders (junior and senior mentors). Link Crew leaders guided their freshmen through team building and relationship-building activities. In order to sustain this support and mentoring, Link Crew leaders will periodically attend, participate and even lead their Advisory group's activities.

The PVHS Advisory program was modeled around a combination of successful Advisory programs from around the nation. We are constantly evaluating the program's effectiveness and working on ways to improve it. Our goal is to imbed Advisory in to the regular student day.

Schedule

Advisory meets on Mondays during a portion of lunch. (See bell schedule below) **Students are permitted to eat their lunch during Advisory.**

Students meet in Advisory rooms for three weeks in a row and then meet as an entire class on each of the fourth weeks.

11:50 - released to lunch

12:02 - bell to Advisory

12:07 - Advisory begins

12:37 - Advisory ends

12:44 - 5th period begins

Mondays are closed campus days for all freshmen.



A Three Week Snapshot of Advisory

Week one of Advisory began with a bang on the second Monday of school. Freshmen met in their groups of twenty with their Advisor and Link Crew leaders. They watched an exciting Traditions DVD and learned about some of the fun opportunities and activities here at PV while enjoying an ice cream treat! In **week two**, the freshmen learned about need-to-know people on campus, important resources, and the various athletics, clubs, and organizations they could participate in. During **week three**, Advisors reviewed the planners which all freshmen were provided showing them strategies on how to use their planners successfully. They also participated in a team building activity designed to help the students and Advisor get to know each other better.

If you would like more information, such as specific Advisory lessons, the calendar for each Advisory, research, or a list of other schools with successful Advisory programs, please visit the "Freshman Advisory" link at www.pvchico.org. Questions, comments, or concerns? Please contact: John Shepherd (879-5110) jshepherd@pvchico.org OR Amy Besnard (879-5100) abesnard@pvchico.org