



Back to School

Students Will Be Able To

- 1. Get to know the other members of their advisory class*
 - 2. Demonstrate understanding of key school processes and policies*
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Materials

Just the information provided in this document. NOTE: The first activity is mandatory.

Introduction

Advisory is about a lot of things. Above all, it's about having a trusted adult in the building the student is comfortable going to for help. That person doesn't have to be the student's counselor, life coach, or BFF. However, he or she should be the one to point them in the direction of academic or emotional support, know them well enough to notice if something is off, and provide another safety net in identifying academic struggles early and intervening.

With that in mind, advisory has four basic parts:



Character Education



Checking In on Academic Progress



Career and College Readiness



Community-Building

The process for advisory is intentionally fluid, meaning that we want you to customize what you do with your students to fit what they need. There will occasionally be things that have to be done on certain days at certain times, but much of what we'll provide will be divided into larger portions of the year – allowing you to teach things in the order that makes the most sense to you. In addition, you have the ability (and responsibility) to make judgement calls with content.

We'll provide a number topics to cover over the course of a time period like a quarter or season, and a number of activities to choose from within each topic. We want you to cover them with as much fidelity as you can, but only when it fits your students. We're giving you more activities and content than you need with each set of lessons, and you can spend more days (or less) than we recommend, skip a topic if you feel your students have other needs, and do something else entirely if it fits better with the goal of advisory and the kids in your class.





Activity 1 – Good to Know

This activity is a brush-up on policies and procedures, as well as a few notices and reminders. It's information we want everyone to review, so this activity is one of the few we ask that you definitely do.

Activity 2 – Get to Know

This activity is one designed to get kids to open up and start getting to know one another and the teacher. In short, it's two truths and a lie.

Activity 3 – Memory

This activity is one that helps you get to know the names of students and something notable about them. It's essentially a competition to see who can remember the most names and notable things in the class.

Activity 4 – Ninja Destruction

This activity is all about not just sitting there. In short, students compete to be the last one standing in a fast-paced game of hand tag. See the instructions for more.

Activity 5 – Something Fun

This is a placeholder to remind you that if you have a better idea, please use it. We want you to own this and to care about your kids. Do something that will bring you out of your shells and closer together. You're all excellent teachers, so finding ways to connect with your students in a meaningful way should be a piece of cake. Just tell us about what you do if it works really well so that we can add it to our list of optional activities that help bring the group together.





Activity 1 – Good to Know

Please cover the following topics with your students. You don't need to read it all word-for-word, but we want all students to know the basics.

Parking

Students should use the student parking lot to the south of the school whenever possible. Specifically, they should not park in the faculty parking lot or along the road on the east end of the football field, as that's where buses line up before and after school. Any car parked during school hours in either the faculty parking lot or along the east side of the football field without a staff parking permit will be referred to the school resource officer or administration.

If being dropped off or picked up, students should do so in front of the school, since the buses are loading and unloading on both sides of the school.

Dress Code

It is not possible to foresee and list every possible way one may violate dress standards, especially because everyone holds themselves and their children to a different standard. As a school, the discussion comes down to enforceability and the integrity of the educational environment. We don't want to micromanage what you wear, and obviously there are some things that just aren't acceptable in a school. However, whenever possible, we want to leave it up to you. **That said, clothing or appearance which, in the judgment of the administration, draws undue attention or is disruptive and/or distracting to the educational process will not be accepted.** This same dress code applies to school dances. When in doubt, don't.

Unacceptable Absolutes

- **Visible Underwear.** As the name suggests, wear it under clothing. If we can see it, you need to cover it up. FYI, a spaghetti strap doesn't cover up a bra strap, and neither does a shirt with a sheer back.
- **Private Areas.** This should be obvious, but we don't want to see any part of your chest, breasts, belly, back, privates, or buttocks. No skin above mid-thigh.
- **Weaponizable Apparel.** If you have a spike or chain or anything else that could realistically injure another person, don't wear it at school.
- **References to Gangs, Drugs, Sex, Swearing or Violence.** You can't learn if you don't feel safe. These things make other people not feel safe.
- **Safety and Identifiability.** Anything that makes it so that we can't readily identify you if needed is a safety haphazard. This can be hats, hoods, face paint, or a wide variety of other things. We're responsible for you while you're here, so we need to be able to tell who you are.





It's all in the Attitude

If you push the limits, someone is going to push back. You are in school to learn, and anything that gets in the way of that is unacceptable. Your attitude will determine the consequences. If you wear something with the intent to distract others, we'll have a problem with it. There are many schools with policies, for example, that ban flip-flops. We don't, but if you're walking up and down the halls doing your best to make the loudest flippity-flop possible, we'll probably ask you to stop. If you tell all your friends you're going to wear something that rides the line of what's acceptable just to test the limits, we'll probably be calling you on it. Hopefully you get the idea. We want the school to be a positive place, and that begins and ends with your attitude.

Electronics

Use of any form of electronic device in a manner that detracts from the educational process of Preston High School is prohibited. Student use of electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones, iPod, tablets, electronic games, etc.) during class time is prohibited, unless assigned by a teacher as part of an educational objective or allowed *and supervised* by the teacher after completion of assigned objectives. Teachers have the right to ask for any device that is disruptive to the classroom environment or used inappropriately in any way.

Individuals need to be cautious of use of electronic devices that may impose on the privacy rights of other individuals; this includes but is not limited to, the taking of photographs to be posted on social media or making comments on social media. Use of social media that takes the form of social bullying will be dealt with under appropriate policies and in conjunction with law enforcement personnel.

Badges

We're doing a few new things with badges this year. There are two new types of student badges: First, your **hall pass** will be a badge on a lanyard with the name of the teacher who is letting you out of class instead of a wooden sign. To use the hall pass, you must first tell the teacher where you plan to go, as they are responsible for you if anything happens. Second, **TA's** will have badges, again with the teacher's name on it. You only use the pass if you are leaving the class on a specific errand for the teacher within the school.

We will also have new badges for all adults in the building. If they're visiting, they'll have a visitor's badge. If they're a staff member, they'll have a staff badge. If you see an adult in the building at any time without a badge, offer to show that individual where the office is and then come and tell us in the office. **If you do see an adult without a badge and direct them to the office to get one, we'll give you a raffle ticket for a drawing for a set of \$300 Beats Solo 3 Wireless Headphones, as well as other prizes.**





And just so staff aren't left out of the fun, if you catch students in the hall 10 minutes after the bell without a pass, let administration know who the student is and we'll give you a raffle ticket for a different drawing. Prizes to be announced.

Food

We have an exceptionally clean campus, and we appreciate all that you do to keep it that way. Please continue to help by eating lunch in the cafeteria or a designated area, and not out in other places around the school like the hallways, gyms, mastery campus common area, or other places where spilled food will be a problem. Common areas can still be used during lunch – just not for eating your lunch.

Attendance

Just a reminder that attendance can affect graduation, so be here. You'll be marked absent if you're more than 10 minutes late to class, and if you start accumulating too many absences or tardies, you'll start accumulating other, less enjoyable things like lunch detention and meetings with parents.

Visitors (Including Parents)

We love visitors, but not as much as we love knowing that they're here. If you have a visitor, including your parents, please have them check in at the office before they come watch you in an assembly or present your project in class. If you see a visitor (or any adult) without a badge, remember to direct them to the office and let us know so we can get you a raffle ticket.

Activity 2 – Get to Know

Have all students take a minute and come up with two things about them that are true and one thing about them that is a lie. Depending on your preference, you can either just go around the room and have students take turns reading their truths and lie and having the other students guess, or you can have students hand them all to the teacher and have students also guess who the truths and lie belong to.

Activity 3 – Memory

Have students sit or stand in a circle around the room. Have each student state their name and something about them that sets them apart from other students. Pick a starting point and have a student state their name and notable thing and then have the next in line state their own and that of the person before them. Continue this as long as you can and then allow students to volunteer to see who can get the most correct.





Activity 4 – Ninja Destruction

Most students have played a version of this, so feel free to let a student take charge in explaining how it works. Also, we encourage you to participate. It's surprisingly fun.

All students stand in a circle about 2 feet apart from one another. The group decides on a person to start the game, everyone yells "Ninja Destruction!" and strikes a ninja pose. From there, the chosen person has one fluid motion to hit the hand (and make sure it's clear that it can only be the hand) of another person. That person being attacked has one fluid motion to avoid the incoming hit. If you are hit, you lose that hand. If you lose both hands, you bow and step out of the circle. As soon as the first person's move – again, one fluid ninja motion – is complete, the next person in the circle can make their move, and so on around the circle. Everyone not attacking or being attacked must hold their pose until it is their turn or someone attacks them. Both attacker and dodger only have one motion, and once the group has gone around once or twice, movement around the circle should naturally speed up. It's usually good to play this more than once, since the people who get out early on often understand the game much better after observation. Also, the circle should be closed as more people get out to avoid people having to jump or tumble to get close enough to another person.

