

PSEL 4: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

In an effort to teach our students skills that lie outside the academic curriculum, we have certain days that are called “advisory days”. Essentially these are extended homeroom days where the guidance department provides lessons (usually by means of prefabricated nearpod slides) for homeroom teachers to share with their students. The topics of these lessons might include SEL lessons, academic integrity lessons, drug and alcohol awareness, etc. Additionally, this year we have been providing staff with equity lessons aimed at handling some of the DEI work that needs to be done in our building in order to improve the culture and climate of the building at large. These lessons generally happen once per month. Our students get fed to us from a 6th grade only school which acts as a bridge to middle school. In that school, the students have a weekly advisory time where the students are able to forge meaningful connections with their advisory teacher as well as address, rehearse, and revisit many more skills in an authentic way. My mentor and I have been working to try to bring weekly advisories to the 7th and 8th grade school as well. I have begun to work with some teachers to create a skeleton of what this might look like. My thought was to think of each month as 4 opportunities to meet and engage with students. One week would be dedicated to student study skills, one week guidance, one week DEI, and the final week forging connections. A coworker and I are hoping to match the new DEI standards to the lessons that we have begun to plan and make the lessons specific to 7th and 8th grade respectively based on the scaffolded standards.