

EISENHOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Principal

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Dear EMS Learning Community,

I am pleased to announce that EMS will begin an advisory pilot program beginning on Thursday, March 17. Periods will be shortened to accommodate an additional time slot during the day for the advisory period to take place. The entire student body will be broken up into small groups and assigned to an adult mentor. There are student mentors assigned to each group as well to assist with the facilitation of the activities. We are hoping to have at least three advisories by the end of the school year.

The purpose of an advisory period is to:

- Promote small, caring communities of learners.
- Promote mutually respectful and meaningful relationships.
- Provide individual attention to students.
- Provide each student with an opportunity to "belong."
- Allow teachers to be actively involved in the affective development of students.
- Emphasize the social and emotional development of every young adolescent.
- Assist students with interpersonal communication skills development.

Along with teaming, advisory is recognized as the most frequently cited characteristic of a true middle school. Our knowledge makes it clear that young adolescents are deeply concerned about and very much occupied with their physical, intellectual, emotional, and social needs. To learn best, young adolescents need to feel a sense of personal relationship with their school and to feel known and recognized as individuals. They need the security, support, and understanding as they work through this dynamic time of their lives.

Still have questions? We will be having a Parent Information Program on Thursday, March 4th from 7 to 8PM. Patrick Fennel from Empowerment Solutions, who has been training our staff and students, will be the presenter. We plan to pilot three advisory activities before the end of the year. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Mr. Nittel