



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our school district is excited about the implementation of an Advisory Program for all students in grades 6-12. This program will support students in establishing individualized and meaningful relationships with an East Shore faculty member advisor and a small group of students. As students engage with their advisor and classmates during the advisory sessions, they will gain key academic and social competencies that are essential for success in school and life.

The mission of the Milford Public Schools Advisory Program is:

If all students participate in a 6-12 comprehensive advisory experience where all students are connected to and are supported by an adult mentor, then all students' physical, intellectual, social and emotional needs will be met as they achieve personal and academic independence.

Parent/guardian involvement will prove vital to the success of this program. To this end our parent/guardian teacher conferences will have an entirely different format this year. Conferences will occur **September 22nd and 23rd** with your child's advisor. At this meeting, you, your child, and the advisor will have a unique opportunity to collaborate on the setting of personalized long and short term goals—a process which is foundational to achievement and success in all aspects of schooling and life.

Students will receive and begin working on goal setting forms during Advisory sessions #3 and #4 in September. Parents/guardians and students will bring their completed goal setting form to conferences. The completed goal setting form will serve as a talking point for the first conference of the year. Students will engage as active participants in this first meeting while sharing their completed goal setting form. Goals provide a way to focus and concentrate time and energy into carefully chosen targets that are designed to make significant positive impacts in one's life.

The table below provides an overview of the scheduled dates for the Middle School Advisory Program sessions. Typically, advisory groups will meet bi-weekly and sessions will take place as a part of each student's regular school day schedule. Four advisory sessions have been scheduled in the first month of school in order to support students as they begin the goal setting process prior to the scheduled conferences.

Middle School Advisory Sessions 2011-2012									
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
1	3	14	12	9	13	12	9	7	4
8	17	28		30	27	26	23	21	
15	31								
19									

The Advisory Program will function as an additional support for your child to help him/her attain success. Advisors will serve as student advocates while supporting students in realizing the importance of their education and while supporting them in reaching high expectations. If you seek additional information regarding the program, please contact East Shore Middle School Principal (Cathy Williams) cwilliams@milforded.org or Assistant Principal (Amy Fedigan) afedigan@milforded.org. You may also contact Shannan Carlson, District Advisory Coordinator, at sperrycarlson@milforded.org. Throughout the year, please visit our school district website www.milforded.org as important information related to the Advisory Program will be posted regularly.

We are looking forward to engaging with you in this important and exciting work!

Cathy Williams

Amy Fedigan