

Curriculum & Student Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:30 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom, 10 Campus Drive , Madison, CT 06443

I. **German Exchange Program**

Speaker (s) : Martin
Glasser

II. **QU Academy**

Speaker (s) : Dan
Grenier

III. **Presentation: Advisory**

Speaker (s) : Catherine
Kennedy and Ron
Spears

IV. **Public Comment**

- V. **The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.**



Madison Public Schools

10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443
(203) 245-6300

TO: Madison Board of Education Curriculum and Student Development Committee

FROM: Martin Glasser

DATE: May 9, 2023

SUBJECT: German Exchange Program

For two weeks in October 2023, 20 German girls from Freiburg will have the chance to live with host families in Madison and experience American life firsthand. From attending classes at Daniel Hand High School to exploring the local area and immersing themselves in American culture, this program offers an unforgettable experience.

Our carefully selected host families will provide a safe and welcoming environment for the German students, ensuring that they feel at home throughout their stay. And with a full schedule of activities and events planned, including their own trips to nearby cities and cultural attractions, there will be no shortage of opportunities for the German students to make new friends and create lasting memories.

Madison students will then have the opportunity to spend time in Germany over the 2024 summer. The greatest benefit of participating in a student exchange program between American and German students is the opportunity to experience a different culture and language firsthand. By living with a German family and immersing oneself in the local community, the student will gain a better understanding of the culture, customs, and language of Germany. Additionally, the student will be able to make lasting friendships with people from different backgrounds and gain invaluable life experience.

Cc: Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent



Advisory

Daniel Hand High School

A commitment to relationship building and social and emotional learning



2022-2023 School Year in Review

- 1) Advisory Vision and Goals
- 2) How is impact being measured?
- 3) What does the data show?
- 4) What topics are being covered?
- 5) What feedback are students and staff providing?
- 6) How are Advisory goals aligned with?:
 - a) NEASC
 - b) Profile of Graduate
 - c) School Improvement Plan



Daniel Hand High School Vision for Advisory

Social and emotional learning is essential for student success in the classroom and beyond. Advisory develops trusting relationships among students and staff, and supports students with meaningful, immersive activities related to social growth and mental health. Advisory is student-driven and student-directed.

Goals of Advisory



1) Develop students' social and emotional skills

2) Facilitate the development of strong, trusting relationships through collaboration among all school community members

3) Offer leadership opportunities for interested students

4) Promote student growth in the areas of responsible decision-making, managing emotions, cooperatively resolving conflict, and overcoming adversity

Profile of a Graduate Capacities Supported by Advisory



Collaboration and Communication

- a) Collective Intelligence
 - i) Working together and exchanging ideas

Self Direction

- a) Gaining self-awareness
- b) Responsible decision making

Global Thinking

- a) Citizenship
 - i) Identify and analyze critical issues in society

- b) Alternative Perspectives
 - i) Interpret complementary and competing worldviews to develop empathy



How is the impact of Advisory being measured?

- Data from school-wide student and faculty surveys: December 2022 and April 2023
 - 515 students & 52 faculty respondents for April survey
- Narrative feedback at student leader meetings: first Thursday of every month
- Narrative feedback from faculty committee members: meetings every trimester or as needed
- Ongoing and regular informal anecdotal feedback from students and faculty
- *Results of 2023-2024 Student Self Report DESSA (Devereux Student Strengths Assessment)*
- *Results of 2023 Search Institute Attitudes and Behavior Survey (compare to the 2021 survey results)*

NEASC Visiting Team Confers Implementation of Advisory is a Success



School Identified Priority Area in our Collaborative Report: “Promote social and emotional mental health and well-being through the expansion of programs such as advisory, the helping hallway, and Wellness Wednesday.” (1.3) Page 32 of 39

Rational: “At the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, Daniel Hand High School implemented a new advisory program, aptly named advisory, to help support and promote our school's vision for social and emotional mental health and well-being, which is also supported by the helping hallway and Wellness Wednesday. Social, emotional, and mental health continue to be an area of focus.”

NEASC Visiting Team Response: “The team does not concur with the Priority Area identified by the school because these programs are already underway and being reviewed and implemented currently. Use of these programs should continue as a normal operating procedure based on data-driven decision-making to direct potential changes or alterations.”



Goal #1: Facilitate the development of strong, trusting relationships and collaboration among school community members.

Student Feedback

What do you like about Advisory?

“people” “advisors”
“relationships” “friends”
“non-judgemental” “inclusive” “open
discussions” “Time to
discuss other topics that are not academic.”

80% of students feel comfortable and safe with the peers in their Advisory group

Faculty Feedback

What do you like about advisory?

“Engaging with students in a non-academic setting.”

“team-building activities”

“Conversations aimed at improving students social and emotional well-being.”

“meeting new students”

“Students saying hello around school.”



Goal #2: Develop students' social and emotional skills.

Student Feedback

What do you like about Advisory?

“the topics”

“the activities”

82% of students report that Advisory topics are connected to their own social and emotional learning needs

GROWTH: 53% of students reported that they found Advisory topics worthwhile in December

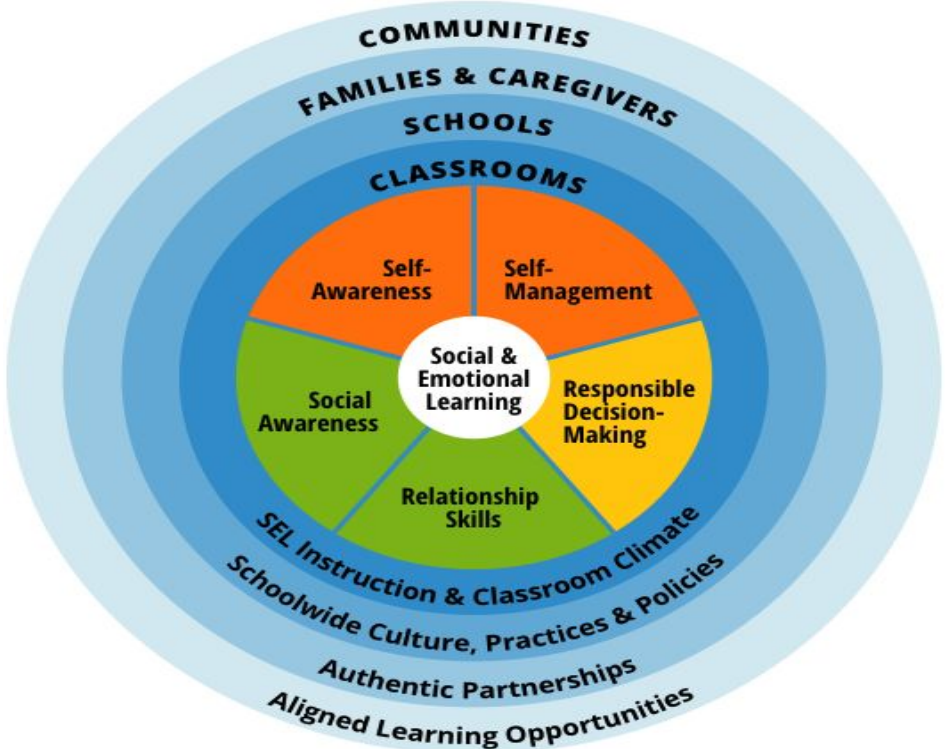
Faculty Feedback

What do you like about Advisory?

“hands-on lessons about SEL topics”

82% agreed that Advisory topics connect with student social and emotional learning needs

Goal #3: Promote student growth in the areas of responsible decision-making, managing emotions, cooperatively resolving conflict, and overcoming adversity.



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<u>Managing Emotions:</u>	<u>Cooperatively Resolving Conflict:</u>	<u>Responsible Decision-Making</u>	<u>Overcoming Adversity</u>
<p>“Hedonic Adaptation”</p> <p>“Infinite Scroll”</p> <p>“Letter to Yourself”</p>	<p>“Creating a working contract using respectful dialogue”</p> <p>“See Something, Say Something”</p>	<p>“What an Advisory Student Leader Looks Like”</p> <p>“Bugs and Wishes”</p>	<p>“Healthy v. Unhealthy Coping Skills”</p> <p>“Responding to Rejection”</p>
Students asked for lessons about :	Students asked for lessons about:	Students asked for lessons about:	Students asked for lessons about:
- Mental Health	- How to navigate challenging social climates.	- Input on changes that could be made at DHHS	- School / life balance - Managing Rejection



Goal 4: Offer leadership opportunities for interested students

Student Feedback:

56% of students reported that student leaders facilitate Advisory activities more than half of the time

40% of students reporting that this occurs in their group more than 75% of the time.

90% of students reported they were equally or more engaged with student-led activities

Faculty Feedback:

55% of teachers reported students leading the Advisory activities

93% of students are equally or more engaged when students facilitate the Advisory

DHHS Goals & Priorities - SCHOOL CLIMATE

Daniel Hand High School Development Plan

**DHHS School
Goals
&
Priorities**

- Work with all stakeholders to provide a safe, positive, respectful, and inclusive culture that ensures students and staff feel supported.
- To provide a physically and emotionally safe learning environment for all members of the Daniel Hand school community.
- To support student leadership and increase opportunities to include diverse student voices.
- To build equity, agency, and opportunity for all students to actively participate in their education.

Content Area

Target Population

Grade(s)



Advisory Program Goals for 2023-2024

- 1. Develop underclassmen and upperclassmen lessons that dive deeper into CASAL competencies**
 - underclassmen (9th and 10th graders)
 - upperclassmen (11th and 12th graders)
- 2. Continue to work towards more student-directed Advisory content**
 - a. Plan a pilot student leader training program
 - b. Develop a process for student directed advisory content
- 3. Focus on integrating Advisory topics into classrooms regularly so that SEL learning becomings more authentic**
 - a. Provide PD and ongoing support to faculty



Advisory Program Goals for 2023-2024

- 4. Topics under consideration**
 - a. Social and emotional health
 - b. Diversity, inclusion and belonging
 - c. Suicide Prevention
 - d. Sexual assault awareness and prevention
- 5. Possible scheduling consideration**
 - a. Alternating Advisory and Wellness to minimize instructional impact