

ADVISORY

at

Putnam Avenue Upper School

Founding Head of School,
Mirko Chardin

Founding Assistant Principal,
Pamela Chu-Sheriff

Objective:

To BUILD RELATIONSHIPS with students **BY exploring** and **honoring** their identities, **reflecting** on their progress with the core values, **assisting** with executive function, and **celebrating** reading **IN ORDER TO** create a community where students are academically and socially successful.

Exploring and Honoring Students' Identities

STORY OF SELF

This is a key part of our advisory program derived from Marshall Ganz' framework of public narrative—story of self us, and now. Story of Self is an opportunity for all of our students to demonstrate our core value of pride in their identities and to reflect on a challenge, a choice, and the outcome in their lives. Staff and students spend the first few months of school crafting, revising, and sharing their story of self; all of this work culminates in a school-wide story of self day where students share their stories science-fair style to members of the community.

Assisting with Executive Function

SCHOOL-WIDE ORGANIZATION SYSTEM

For each class, students are required to have a binder. Each binder contains the following tabs:

- Grade and Assignment Tracking
- Classwork and Notes
- Vocabulary
- 2 additional tabs that teachers customize

In Advisory, teachers check-in with students about grades, warning notices, and help students maintain organized binders.

Reflecting on Progress with the Core Values

PORTFOLIO

At Putnam Avenue, we believe that our students are headed towards the “**Good Life.**” That is, we believe that our students will become successful and contributing members of society with the best possible quality of life. In order to live the “Good Life,” students will develop a sense of mastery of our core values of passion, pride, and ownership with balance and perseverance.

All students spend daily advisory time reflecting on the core values, identifying and collecting artifacts, and assembling a portfolio that they present at the end of the year: 6th grade in their advisories, 7th grade with families and science-fair style, and 8th grade in individual panel presentations, which must meet or exceed expectations in order to participate in graduation.

Celebrating Reading

INDEPENDENT READING PROGRAM

- 1 day per week in Advisory
- Teachers model reading
- 20 book per student per year goal
- Monitoring progress in ELA classes (logs and book talks)

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Core Value PRIDE

We take pride in our identities and the impact we have on both individuals and larger society. We think not only about the here and now, but about the future as well, considering carefully how each choice we make will impact the future of our own lives as individuals and the future of our collective community.

About the Practice...

Story of Self asks individuals to consider their values and frame a story from their experience that highlights a choice, a challenge, and an outcome. Crafting and sharing this story creates an experience where staff and students can reflect, embrace the personal power of framing and telling their own story, form deep connections, and exhibit our core value of pride.

At Putnam Avenue this process has been both modeled and experienced by staff members, who then replicated the process with their advisory students. For both staff and students all of this work drafting, revising, and practicing culminated in a science-fair style, school-wide Story of Self Day.



Criteria for Success



- A good public narrative is drawn from the series of choice points that have structured the “plot” of your life—the challenges you faced, choices you made, and outcomes you experienced.
- The power in your story of self is to reveal something of yourself and your values—not your deepest secrets, but the key shaping moments in your life.
- Your story models authentic fragility and honesty.

Criteria adapted from the works of Marshall Ganz, Harvard University.