

Advisory Course Expectations



Purpose of Advisory

Advisory classes meet once per week on Monday. When possible, students will stay with their advisory teacher over the course of their four years at Vista. Vista del Lago High School’s advisory program has three purposes:

1. Create positive and caring relationships among staff and students, which promotes an emotionally and physically safe environment for all students.
2. A support system to promote high levels of learning for all students.
3. School wide exposure to relevant and important issues, which include college and career readiness as well as social and emotional growth.

Grade Level Themes

Each grade level has a unique theme and activities/lessons to support the theme.

Grade Level	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Theme	Who am I?	What is my role in this world?	How do I achieve my goals?	How do I achieve success after Vista?
Sample Lesson Topics	Being True To Yourself	Creating a Positive Digital Footprint	Stress and Anxiety	The Power of Mindset
	Self-Esteem	Career Exploration	Test Preparation	Leaving a Legacy
	Exploring and Embracing Our Unique Identities	Changing The World One Kind Act At A Time	College Exploration and Virtual College Visits	College Application Process
	How Do I Learn Best?	Expanding My Global View	College Planning	College/Career Survival
	Goal Setting	Texting and Driving	Résumé Building	Try Something New
	Four Year Planning	Update Four Year Plan	Update Four Year Plan	Senior Reflections

Advisory IS...

- Time for teachers to connect with students
- Time for teachers to check in on advisory students' academic progress
- Time to discuss important issues relevant to the students' grade level

Advisory IS NOT...

- Free time or recess for students
- Phone time for students (texting, watching videos, playing games)
- Study hall or time to complete homework
- Time to travel to other teachers or run errands

Grading and Citizenship

Students will earn either a passing (P) or failing (F) grade in advisory. To earn a P, students must complete all advisory assignments assigned. Most of the assignments are completed in class, but some are completed at home. Students will receive a citizenship grade based on Vista's guidelines outlined in the student handbook/agenda.

Classroom Rules

1. **Be respectful!** Show respect to everyone and everything in our advisory classroom. Leave a negative attitude at the door. In particular, please respect others' opinions (which does not mean that you have to agree with them). Show respect during any broadcasts or school wide announcements by being silent when they are on.
2. **Be prepared to succeed!** Come to Advisory prepared to talk to your advisory teacher about your academic progress. Understand that I will be checking your grades in all classes, and we will have serious conversations about your academic standing. I will work with you and your parents to make sure you are being successful at Vista.
3. **Be Ready to Participate!** One of the best ways to come together as an Advisory is to participate in our class activities and school-wide competitions. They are a fun way to take a break from the routine of school and help us bond as a class. Don't miss these opportunities!
4. **A few other class rules...**
 - a. No food or drink except water.
 - b. Phones may not be out.
 - c. Follow the school rules in the student handbook

Advisory Course Expectations

Student Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Best phone # to call _____ Best phone # to call _____

Best email to use _____ Best email to use _____

Preferred school to home communication method: (circle one) phone / email

Student:

Please sign this page as evidence that 1) you have read, understand, and will follow the classroom expectations, 2) you have discussed the course expectations with your parent, 3) you will see your teacher as soon as possible if you are ever having problems or difficulties with the course, and 4) you are committed to excellence in this class.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian:

These course expectations were developed as a guide for students and parents to help answer commonly asked questions that come up during the course of a school year. Our goal is to create a positive educational atmosphere of learning where rules are enforced firmly, fairly, and consistently for all students. Please sign this page as evidence that 1) you have read the course expectations, 2) you have discussed the parameters of this course with your child, and 3) you are fully aware of and support our policies and procedures.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

In a Million Words or Less (parent homework)

I am going to be your child's advisor until they graduate. My job is to be an advocate for them and provide social, emotional, and academic guidance as needed. To help me get to know your child I am assigning some parent homework! This activity gives you a chance to tell me what YOU think I should know about your scholar. I will read each one very carefully.

Please try to get *In a Million Words or Less* to me by the end of August. You can either send it with your scholar or email it to me. Thank you in advance for your participation!