

Thomaston High School Advisory Program Overview

Board of Education Mission Statement:

IN A PARTNERSHIP OF FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY, OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE, CHALLENGE AND INSPIRE EACH INDIVIDUAL TO EXCEL AND BECOME A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF SOCIETY.

Thomaston High School Mission Statement

Learn to Live...Live to Learn

Thomaston High School, an inclusive community of lifelong learners, is dedicated to high academic achievement and the cultivation of social and civic responsibility in a safe, stimulating, and supportive environment.

Academically, all students graduating from Thomaston High School will demonstrate through multiple assessments the ability to:

- Communicate effectively through speaking and writing
- Use a variety of technological and informational resources to gather, synthesize, and present data
- Apply critical thinking skills to interpret and evaluate information and solve problems through
- rigorous, and creative intellectual activities
- Set challenging goals and perform reflective self-assessment and utilize positive, appropriate outlets for self-expression

Civically, all students graduating from Thomaston High School will demonstrate the rights and responsibilities as members of a democratic society, including making positive contributions to the local community.

Socially, all students graduating from Thomaston High School will demonstrate the ability to:

- Develop qualities of good character and positive intrapersonal and interpersonal skills
- Apply knowledge of physical, cognitive, and emotional development to create a safe and healthy
- lifestyle
- Understand and embrace diverse cultures and individuality

Advisory Mission:

It is our mission, through our advisory program, to provide every student at Thomaston High School with an adult advocate. This adult becomes the primary contact person for the student, taking an interest, advocating, and mentoring them throughout their years at THS. Additionally, the program is intended to promote student connections that will lead to a healthier, more enjoyable, and enriching experience for all students.

Course Description:

The purpose of the THS Advisory Program is to create an environment that personalizes the school community by facilitating strong interpersonal connections between staff and students and between students and their peers. Students will engage in the advisory experience by learning about the school, learning about themselves, increasing the level of their accountability and responsibility, and learning from one another in a smaller group setting. Advisory supports the personal and academic progress of each student while also fostering a sense of community within the advisory group and beyond. The safe, non-evaluative setting provides some balance to the rigorous academic demands of the Thomaston High experience.

PROGRAM GOALS***Through the Advisory Program we strive to:***

- 1. Create a “sense of family” and “belonging”.*
- 2. Produce self-sufficient, responsible learners.*
- 3. Expand understanding of the total school educational program in areas including curriculum, requirements, and policies.*
- 4. Assist students in their pursuits of and transitions to Post-Secondary plans.*
- 5. Provide students opportunities to frequently self-reflect and self-assess.*
- 6. Provide an opportunity for advisors and advisees to communicate openly and honestly with one another.*
- 7. Give students a positive channel to express concerns about the school*
- 8. Assist students in developing 21st Century Skills.*
- 9. Encourage students to take pride in their school, in their work, and in their successes.*
- 10. Empower students to be responsible decision makers.*

Program Structure:

The Thomaston High School Advisory program takes place twice weekly, for 23 minutes. In addition to delivering the curriculum during these meeting times, the advisory period is also used for the following purposes:

1. Assemblies (Class Meetings, Club Meetings, School-wide assemblies, guest speakers, etc.)
2. Conferencing – Following each formal release of student grades (progress reports and report cards) advisory time will be used for Advisers to hold one-on-one conferences with each advisee.
3. Current Events (Local and National Level) – Throughout the course of the year we utilize our advisory program as a vehicle to discuss and learn from societal events. We utilize school, town, and national events ranging from historic successes and achievement to horrific tragedies. We feel that there is no better environment within our school community than our advisory program to process, and hopefully learn from such events.
4. Special Advisory-based events – Several times throughout the year, as part of our advisory program, we engage in fun, seasonally themed, group contests that promote team-building and healthy competition in a safe and structured environment.