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ADVISORY GROUPS

*Supporting young leaders through
relational learning (Grades 6-8)*

IBSC
Southport, Queensland
July 9, 2018



OVERVIEW

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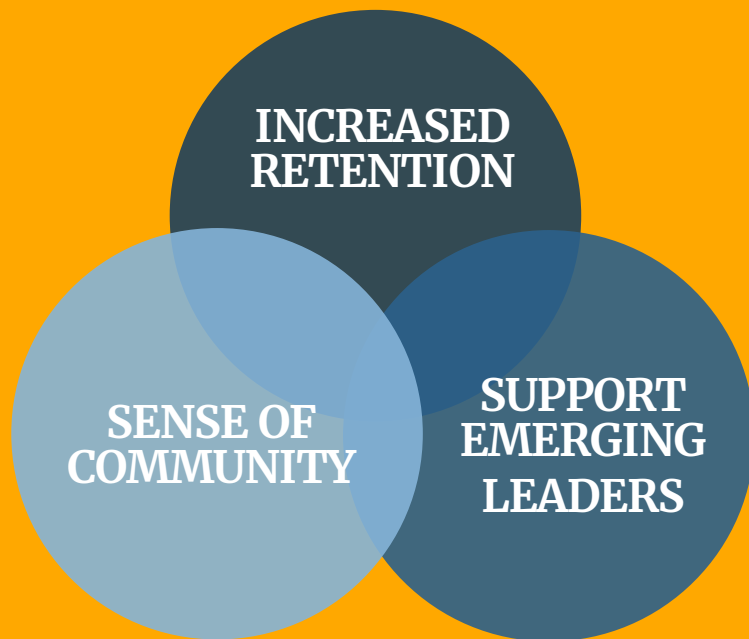
*Toronto, Ontario
CANADA*

- All-boys day school founded in 1987
- Exclusively focused on the Junior Kindergarten – Grade 8 formative years
- 315 students, 65 faculty and staff
- Student-to-teacher ratio of approximately 7:1
- Over 30 Athletic Teams and more than 50 Clubs
- Character education and leadership opportunities for all grade levels



GAP ANALYSIS

Identifying Our Needs



DELIVERY ELEMENTS

1

Guided character
education framework

2

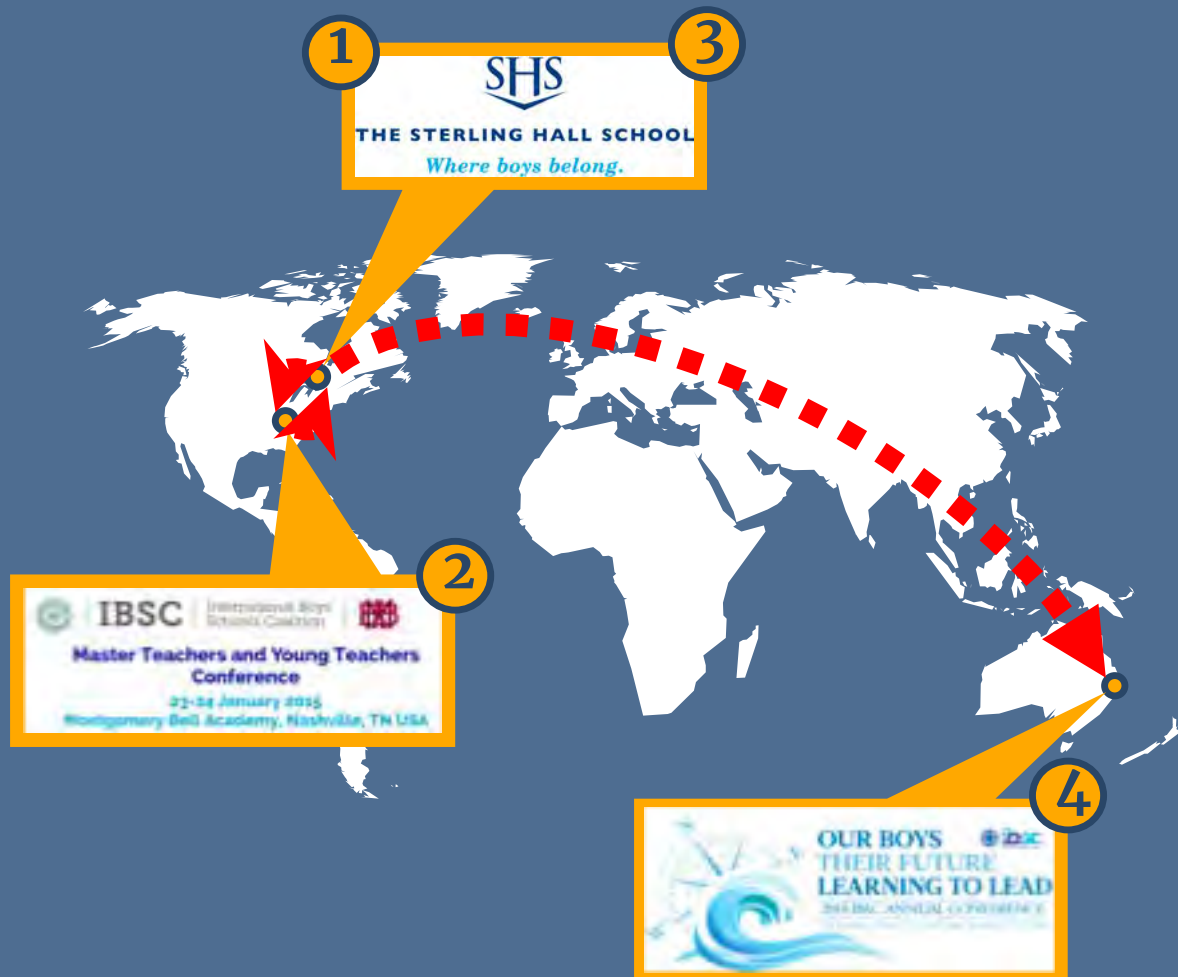
Meaningful facilitated
conversations

3

Benefit of shared
experiences

The Journey

- ① Incubation & development of Advisory Group program during spring/summer 2014 – *Launched September 2014*
- ② Collaborated on ideas for an expanded program & supports @ IBSC-Nashville
- ③ Introduced an expanded Advisory Groups program; implemented Student Handbook & Progressive Discipline
- ④ Sharing results with IBSC colleagues 4 years later



Inspiration from IBSC Nashville, 2015

Student Handbook

- Clarification of school policies
- Each student signs their homeroom contract

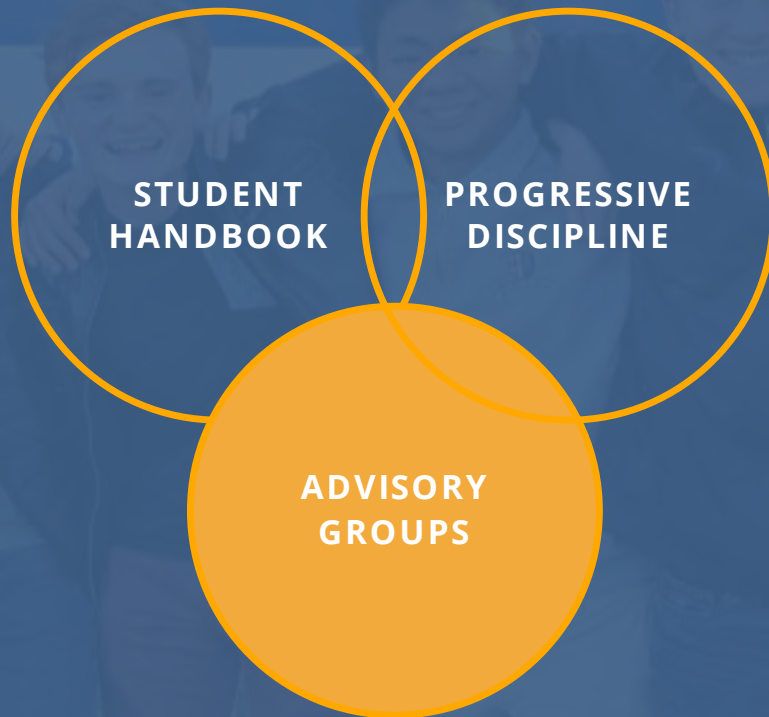
Progressive Discipline

- Clarifies expectations to keep students on the path for success
- Part of the student handbook



INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

Grades 6 – 8 Ages 10 – 14



*A way for boys to
connect and learn
from each other
through meaningful
conversations and
shared experiences*



Support and Guidance from Teacher Advisors

Tyler Meakin

Laura Medcalf

Kim Lynch

Jon Moore

James Hay

Joel Brough

Scott Davis

Advisory Group Coordinators



**Andrew
Kilmer**

- Health & Physical Education teacher
- Experiential Learning Coordinator
- Advisory Groups Co-Coordinator
- Grade 7 Leadership Process Co-Coordinator



**Elizabeth
Gray**

- Grade 8 Homeroom & English teacher
- Director of Graduate Placement & Alumni Relations
- Advisory Groups Co-Coordinator
- Grade 8 Mentorship Program Coordinator

TEACHER FACILITATED...



Guide for Teacher-Advisors

Sterling Character

We value and develop confidence and resilience, kindness and respect, with the courage to advocate for oneself and for others.

What are your strengths?

WISDOM



CREATIVITY



CURIOSITY



JUDGMENT



PERSPECTIVE



LOVE OF LEARNING

COURAGE



BRAVERY



PERSEVERANCE



HONESTY



ZEST



TEMPERANCE



FORGIVENESS



HUMILITY



PRUDENCE



SELF-REGULATION

HUMANITY



LOVE



KINDNESS



SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

JUSTICE



TEAMWORK



FAIRNESS



LEADERSHIP

TRANSCENDENCE



APPRECIATION OF BEAUTY



GRATITUDE



HOPE



HUMOUR



SPIRITUALITY

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THE STERLING HALL SCHOOL

Where boys belong.

STUDENT INSPIRED!

Advisory Groups

Gr. 7 – Student Initiative



- 1)- Two boys were inspired by a YouTube video that their Head Boy showed them

"This video inspired me and my fellow classmates"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q_Q7KYWG1g

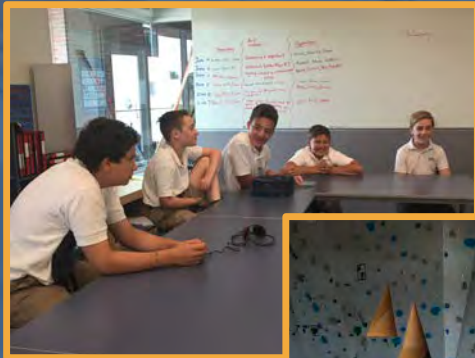
- 1) The boys brought forward the idea of showing the video to other intermediate students during Advisory Groups
- 2) The boys created a template for the Advisory Group meeting by connecting the video's message to our character education program
- 3) The boys transformed questions that could be discussed after watching the video
- 4) The video was moving and allowed boys to reflect on who motivates them in their own lives

"I believe that is has given the boys an opportunity to pass on important information to their peers in the younger grades..."

“

TEACHER ADVISOR REFLECTIONS

"I feel like advisory groups have given me an opportunity to connect with a core group of boys on a different level than as a classroom teacher..."



“Relational learning allows me to connect with the boys on a different level and allows the Grade 6, 7, and 8 boys to build relationships with peers who they may not have had contact with otherwise...”

“

TEACHER ADVISOR REFLECTIONS

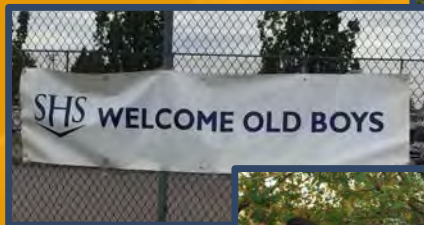


“This is an excellent platform for them to open up about themselves. There are not too many opportunities where boys can share real experiences like they do during advisory groups...”

"I learned a lot more about other group members than about myself. This allowed me to connect to other students like I never had before..."

“

**OLD
BOYS
FEEDBACK**



"Advisory groups were something that I took for granted. Throughout the meetings we had, I was skeptical about what they would actually do for me. Looking back now, the advice from older students and the lessons we learned helped me a lot throughout middle school and now in high school..."

"I feel that advisory groups were an amazing way to meet other students of all different ages and really gain a perspective about what goes on in the years to come..."

“

OLD BOYS FEEDBACK



"I remember being afraid and not wanting to go...but after meeting with the older kids I knew they were just there to help me and I was there to help them. Even though they were a couple years older, we both had equal power in that room..."



BREAKOUT SESSION



Breakout Session

Three Questions to Consider and Explore

~10 Minutes



1. How might we create a similar opportunity for boys in our own school community?

2. How might we develop a mentorship, leadership, and character education-focused curriculum?

3. What kind of outcomes can we expect to see in our students/alumni due to their experience in the program?

RECENT OBSERVATIONS & ANALYSIS

ENCOURAGES A MORE ENGAGED COMMUNITY

*Moved beyond traditional barriers of
grades and geography*

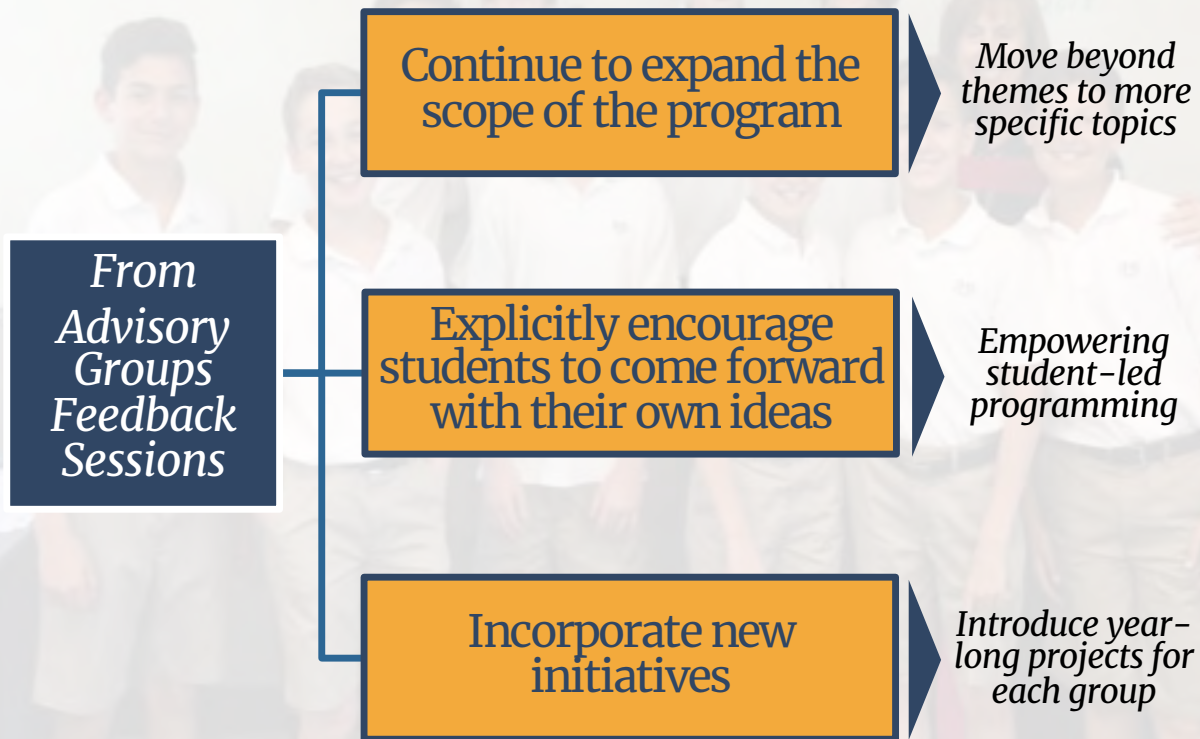
FOSTERS HEALTHIER COMMUNICATION

*Open natured atmosphere promotes
trust and fosters support*

PROMOTES STRONGER CONNECTIONS

*Families are more aware of what occurs
across all grades*

FUTURE FOCUS & PRIORITIES



WHAT'S THE TAKEAWAY?

1

Needs Analysis

What needs improvement?

2

Executive Support

Get early buy-in from senior leadership

3

Make It Real

Build the activities into the timetable

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QUESTIONS?