

## Middle School Mentoring Meeting 3

This has been an incredibly busy semester and Winter Break, believe it or not, is just around the corner. Ask them how they are doing. Are they struggling in any areas? What can we do as a school to help them?

In advisory the last few weeks they have been learning about study skills, organization, learning styles, etc. Ask them if they are overwhelmed? Maybe they are not as concerned as they should be? This is a good time for them to do a “check” and see where they stand academically.

Balancing classes is a tough issue for many. Give them suggestions on how to balance all the classes. **Remember this is NOT a time to speak badly about teachers.** If they are struggling with one teacher and it is a teacher you had, then give them suggestions on how to better handle that teacher’s class. We have tutoring with the math club that they may not know about. They can see Ms. Heller about tutoring if they need math help through the math club.

Suggestions for balancing classes:

- Use an agenda/calendar! Whether written or online, write everything down and make to-do lists. Plan when you have time to study and when you have time to have fun.
- Organize your locker, notebook and keep up with your assignments. Need help? Ask a friend or teacher or mentor for help.
- Study a little each night. Do not wait until the night before a big test or project to begin. Procrastination is the enemy!

As time permits, do the following icebreaker activities:

- 10 Things in Common – Tell the group they must find ten things they have in common. They must exclude the obvious things (i.e., they are all students, they all attend Central Magnet, they are all female or all male, they are all in the same grade, no listing body parts like legs and arms, no clothing like “we’re all wearing pants,” and any other obvious common/visible attributes). Mentor take notes. Monitor this and be careful with appropriate discussion.
- Your Favorites – Tell the group to identify and share their favorite things or activities. Some suggestions include vacation, movie, music type, musical artist, book, ice cream, animal, city in the US, and favorite food. The next part – the advisee must share why the selected item is his/her personal favorite. Mentor take notes. Monitor this and be careful with appropriate discussion. Add additional favorite types as time permits.

**There should be no extra time for sidebar conversations or twiddling of thumbs. Keep your group on task and be an effective leader.**

If you have questions- see me!  
Mr. Nichols

BTW – If you did not receive a note from me before this mentoring session, please see me ASAP.