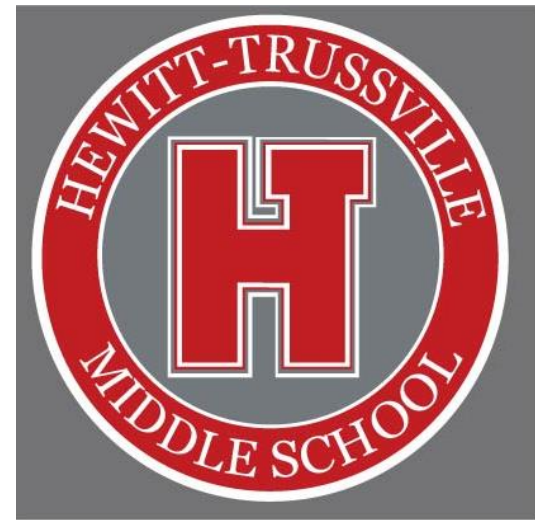


Using Clubs to Build Relationships

Leigh Stovall, NBCT

7th grade Civics and Geography
Hewitt-Trussville Middle School
Trussville, Alabama

*Am I in the right place?
We will breeze through the
research behind using clubs. We
will discuss student, teacher, and
parent impact of clubs. You will
learn how to create your own
program and organize clubs.*



- Located NE of Birmingham, AL
- City school system in 12th year
- Only middle school in district
- 1080 students in grades 6-8
- 70 faculty members and support staff

**Advisory
Period**

**SREB
Best
Practice**

Southeast Regional Education Board: Ten Best Practices in Middle Grades

#8 “Ensure students receive high-quality guidance and advisement by providing students with a personal connection with an adult in the building...”

What is an advisory period?

- “An advisory is an organized group of one adult and a dozen or so kids that serves as the students' first line of affiliation in their school,” said Stevenson in *Teaching Ten to Fourteen Year Olds*. “The group meets at least once daily, usually for the first 20 minutes or so of the day.”

“Advice About Middle School Advisories.” by Gary Hopkins

What is an advisory period?

- Among the purposes of the advisory, Stevenson writes, are to
 - ensure that each student is known well at school by at least one adult who is that youngster's advocate (advisor);
 - guarantee that every student belongs to a peer group;
 - help every student find ways of being successful within the academic and social options the school provides;
 - promote communication and coordination between home and school.

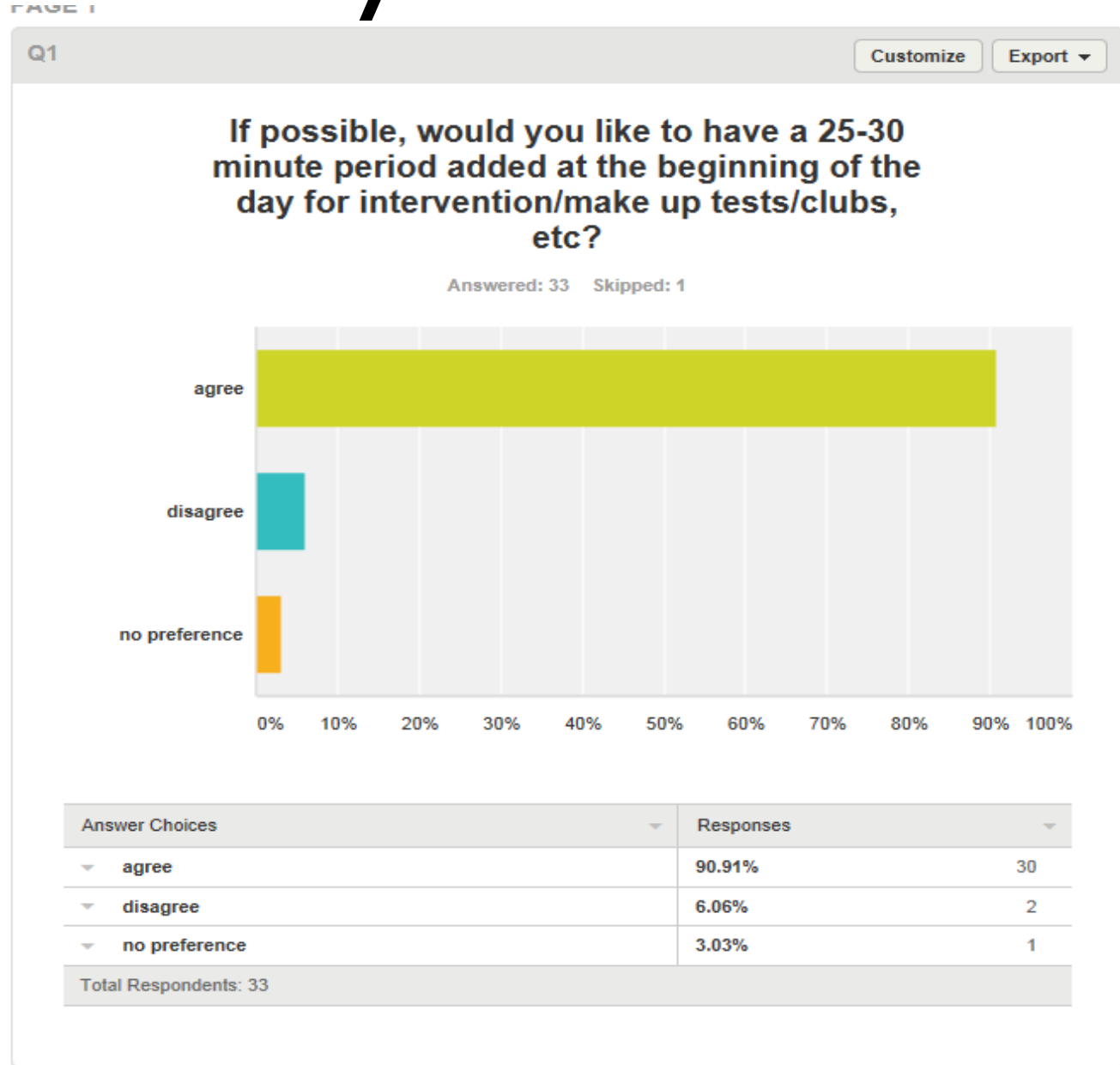
"Advice About Middle School Advisories." by Gary Hopkins

School visit

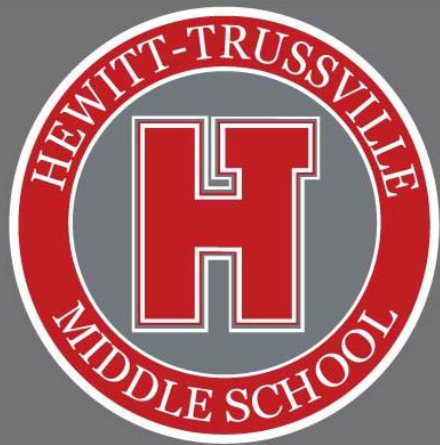
First order of business is to investigate this. You might visit a secondary school to see first hand an advisory period in action!

Survey and Analysis

In preparation of developing our 2014-2015 Master Schedule, Mrs. Berry asked our teachers to respond to 3 questions. The first question focused on embedding time for clubs and interventions. 91% said yes!



Faculty Meeting



We shared the survey results and our experience with the school visit. We proposed the idea and there was a positive response.

Based on faculty buy in, we knew to develop our Master Schedule to include a 28 minute period called "HT" or "Husky Time"

	Tuesday/Thursday	Wednesday/ Friday
7:55- 8:00	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:04- 8:52	1 st period	1 st period
8:56-9:44	7 th	2 nd
9:48-10:15	HT	CLUBS
10:19-11:07	6 th	3 rd
11:11-12:24 (Lunch for 7 th)	4 th period	4 th period
12:28-1:16	5 th period	5 th period
1:20-2:08	3 rd	6 th
2:12- 3:00	2 nd	7 th



Enrichment through Clubs

Rationale for Enrichment

Initial research was focused on the “relationship” piece and incorporating a system for kids and teachers to interact in a meaningful way outside of the academic setting, but quickly led to deeper research into *Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM)* by Joseph Renzulli.

**According to
Schoolwide
Enrichment
Model,
what could
we expect?**

- Improvement in teacher and student attendance
- Improvement in standardized testing
- Student engagement
- Parent, teacher, community support
- Positive responses from parent, teacher, student

Club Time



Our Clubs

- 21st Century Etiquette
- ACT Prep
- Animal Rescue
- Art Journal
- Babysitting
- Board Games
- Boys Basketball Skills
- Brain Games
- Cake Decorating
- Chess Club
- Coloring
- Cornhole
- Crafts
- Creative Writing
- Disc Golf

- Disney
- Doodling Club
- Drum Line
- Football- Talking SEC
- Fantasy Football
- Flag Football
- Girls Bball skills
- Girls in Sports
- Harry Potter
- HTMS Comicon at the Movies
- Leadership
- Legos
- Let's Take a Walk
- Louping
- Magic
- Movie Chat
- National Jr. Art Honor Society
- Origami
- Pageant Prep
- Ping-Pong
- Pinterest
- Prep for All State Choir
- Puzzles
- Reading Club
- Recipe Club / Cooking Club
- Robotics
- Self Defense for Girls
- Sign Language
- So you think you can dance?
- Soccer club
- Stepping
- Team Sports
- TED Ed Club
- Wilderness Survival

How did we do it?

getting
teacher
input

Faculty

- At the end of last school year, our vice principal gathered club ideas from faculty.
- He worked to make sure that there was a variety of clubs per grade level.
- Some teachers could not decide, so we helped them develop their vision for a club.

Logistics

Keeping teachers in mind

We made sure to have consistent, concise, and clear communication with the faculty about:

- Teacher responsibilities:
 - Enjoy the time in their club
 - NO lesson plans
 - Should reflect you interest
 - 15 total club days in a nine weeks

- The goal of clubs:

Students will develop relationships among other students with like interests and with an adult at school who also has same interest.

Logistics

Keeping students in mind

- We tried to keep student clubs within grade level. (as a starting point)
- We communicated that students should choose a club based on their interest driven - not who is teaching the class OR if they have a friend in that club.
- We tried to make sure students had a variety of choices.
- Because of district level focus on ACT Prep Awareness, we created an 8th grade club for prep (have 6). We had 60+ students sign up for this as one of their five choices

Logistics

Initial challenges

- *What if a club doesn't make?*
- *How do we handle students requesting to have a certain club?*
- "Members-only club" with permission of an administrator. The current member only clubs were created for one of the following purposes:
 - Student specific needs (instruction or service)
 - Skill improvement
 - Competition purpose (but not stipend activity)

How did we do it?

student
surveys

- How do we gather the data about what club a student wants to choose?

We created grade level surveys using Google Form.

6th Grade Club Survey

* Required

Who is your homeroom teacher? *

What is your first name? *

What is your last name? *

Club Options *

Put a check by your 1st - 5th choices. Be sure to SCROLL → to see ALL OPTIONS.

	Leadership	Girl Talk	Peace and Quiet Club	Intramural Sports	Weather	Power Walking	Crafting Club	Fantasy Sports	Genea
1st Choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2nd Choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3rd Choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4th Choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5th Choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Submit

Logistics

- Google form presents results in a spreadsheet. We transferred data to Excel for sorting since we were more familiar with the program.
- At that point, it was a matter of dividing up into clubs and figuring out how to handle too many students wanting to be in one club?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Timestamp		What is your first name?	Who is your homeroom te	Club Options [1st Choice]	Club Options [2nd Choice]	Club Options [3rd Choice]	Club Options [4th Choice]	Club Options [5th Choice]
2	8/15/2014 9:53:51		William	Oliveira	Intramural Sports	Fantasy Sports	Ultimate Frisbee	Nutrition for Athletes	Peace and Quiet Club
3	8/15/2014 9:54:00		bryton	Oliveira	Archery	Chess Club	Crafting Club	Ultimate Frisbee	Gardening
4	8/15/2014 9:54:12		Katie	Oliveira	Girl Talk	Solo Singing	Archery	Peace and Quiet Club	Cosmo Girl/Fashion
5	8/15/2014 9:54:17		Brock	Oliveira	Archery	Ultimate Frisbee	Intramural Sports	Power Walking	Nutrition for Athletes
6	8/15/2014 9:54:45		Asheton	Williams	Ultimate Frisbee	Fantasy Sports	Archery	Career Exploration	Power Walking
7	8/15/2014 9:54:45		Erika	Olivera	Peace and Quiet Club	HTMS Readers 6th Grade	Archery	Crafting Club	Gardening
8	8/15/2014 9:54:57		Cole	Olivera	Intramural Sports	Ultimate Frisbee	Archery	Power Walking	Fantasy Sports
9	8/15/2014 9:54:59		Megan	Oliveira	Solo Singing	Archery	Intramural Sports	HTMS Readers 6th Grade	Scrapbooking
10	8/15/2014 9:55:00		Emma	Williams	Peace and Quiet Club	Fantasy Sports	Fantasy Sports	Archery	Intramural Sports
11	8/15/2014 9:55:07		Reagan	Oliveira	Solo Singing	Peace and Quiet Club	Girl Talk	Gardening	Cosmo Girl/Fashion
12	8/15/2014 9:55:17		kayden	Williams	Archery	Scrapbooking	Crafting Club	Gardening	Power Walking
13	8/15/2014 9:55:21		Andrew	Oliveira	Chess Club	Comics And Graphic Stor	Peace and Quiet Club	HTMS Readers 6th Grade	Gardening
14	8/15/2014 9:55:23		Eli	Williams	Archery	Crafting Club	Ultimate Frisbee	Gardening	Fantasy Sports
15	8/15/2014 9:55:37		delaney	oliveira	Archery	Crafting Club	Scrapbooking	Nutrition for Athletes	Literary Magazine
16	8/15/2014 9:55:39		Maeve	williams	Scrapbooking	Archery	Crafting Club	Gardening	Power Walking
17	8/15/2014 9:55:40		Hudson	Williamson	Intramural Sports	Ultimate Frisbee	Archery	Fantasy Sports	Power Walking
18	8/15/2014 9:55:49		Caleb	Williams	Weather	Crafting Club	Genealogy	Comics And Graphic Stor	Career Exploration
19	8/15/2014 9:55:49		Sarah	Oliveira	Archery	Intramural Sports	Nutrition for Athletes	Fantasy Sports	Crafting Club
20	8/15/2014 9:55:49		foster	Copus	Archery	Ultimate Frisbee	Fantasy Sports	Peace and Quiet Club	Gardening
21	8/15/2014 9:55:49		victoria	oliveira	Archery	Intramural Sports	Nutrition for Athletes	Fantasy Sports	Crafting Club
22	8/15/2014 9:55:51		John	Williams	Archery	Peace and Quiet Club	Career Exploration	Leadership	Crafting Club
23	8/15/2014 9:56:02		seth	Mrs Williams	Archery	Fantasy Sports	Chess Club	Ultimate Frisbee	Fantasy Sports
24	8/15/2014 9:56:03		foster	Copus	Archery	Ultimate Frisbee	Fantasy Sports	Peace and Quiet Club	Gardening
25	8/15/2014 9:56:06		Kaylee Rose	Williamson	Solo Singing	Cosmo Girl/Fashion	Crafting Club	Leadership	Archery

What next?

Sort Data

Identify

- Which clubs “make”
- Which clubs don’t “make”
- Which clubs have too many signed up and will need to be reduced

Sort Students into clubs.

Trouble- shooting

After clubs were announced, we had to..

- Create a master list for nurse, admin, and front office to know where every student is in the building.
- Fix the survey for next time (HR teacher name must be check box, not typed.)
- Find locations for clubs to meet (computer labs needed, gym).
- Find a time to meet with students who were absent or did not take club survey.
- Figure out our policy about students who has an opportunity to be in 2 members-only clubs.

Research to Support Change

Effect on Attendance

Research says: Attendance was higher on club days, both for students and teachers.

Our Findings

Attendance data for teachers of clubs. Data accounts for approximately 62% of teachers on staff and includes only sick and/or personal days.

Professional days were not factored in. New teachers for 2014-2015 were not included. Long Term illness/maternity leave was not factored in.

Total days absent 2013-2014
136

Total days absent 2014-2015
94

Name	2013-2014	2014-2015
Teacher 1	6	2
Teacher 2	7	2
T3	4	0
T4	6	7*
T5-	5	4
T6	3	1
T7	5	7*
T8	7	7
T9	15	5
T10	5	1
T11	2	1
T12	3	3
T13	2	2
T14	4	3
T15	2	5*
T16	15	3
T17	2	2
T18	6	4
T19	5	5
T20	2	1
T21	3	2
T22	4	4
T23	4	3
T24	7	7
T25	3	4*
T26	3	3
T27	6	5

Research to Support Change

Effect on Standardized Testing

After three years in this model, one middle school saw increases in student proficiency as measured by standardized tests...in all core content areas

Our Findings

Comparing a year without clubs to a year with clubs, in 6 of 9 categories of ACT Aspire are trending upwards.

Research to Support Change

Effect on Students

Positive Response from Students

- Very few students check out during club time. Parents wait until after clubs.
- One child was called to check out and wouldn't come to the front office. His mom went to him and he said- "hold on a minute mom, I'll leave after club time."

Students just like clubs



Effect on New Students



We have found that students, brand new to the school who were concerned about fitting in, have found like minded students and have felt welcomed. One student in the Peace and Quiet club told us, "I have found people like me."

Positive Response from Parents

Parent have communicated with teachers and our Advanced Ed Surveys indicate positive impact.

Research to Support Change

HTMS	What do you like best about our school?	STI being updated frequently
HTMS	What do you like best about our school?	Great atmosphere. Fantastic staff. Huge HT fan.
HTMS	What do you like best about our school?	The opportunities it provides
HTMS	What do you like best about our school?	The administration, faculty and staff provide a relaxed, caring and loving environment that facilitates learning. Our students feel safe and cared for.
HTMS	What do you like best about our school?	✖ I love the opportunities they are given to explore their interest with clubs, etc. I also feel safe with the officers on campus.
HTMS	What do you like best about our school?	✖ I like student clubs. I like the amount and variety of after school activities that our students are offered. I like that teachers are hired because they want to teach, not hired because they are a coach. We have very friendly and helpful office staff. The school always appears clean and well kept.
HTMS	What do you like best about our school?	✖ I graduated from HTHS and my children are using the same facilities, as I did with updates based on the technology and education needs. Like HT time and also the rotation of 1st period with 7th period, etc. The fine arts... specifically mixed choir and show choir are amazing at htms!!

Positive Response from Teachers

- Teachers are enjoying interests outside their content:
 - Math teacher is teaching sign language.
 - An English teacher sponsoring the Photography club.
 - Our art teachers teaching genealogy.
- There has been an increase in faculty morale as we get to know each other better.

Research to Support Change



Effects on Teacher Practice

“Students in Robotics club can't wait each week to get to work. They're self motivated and excited about what their designing. This week students asked if they could start coming in before school. In the club we're achieving many of the same learning objectives as my Pre Engineering classes, but because we're calling this 'club time' students feel that they have more freedom in their work,” Robotics Club Sponsor.

Stakeholder Response

- Community Support
Community businesses visiting
Cosmo Club



Community Response



- District Child Nutrition Specialist visiting Cooking Club
- Cooking Club won the Jr. Pitmaster/Dreamland BBQ Pitmaster Recipe Contest

Community Response



- National Seed company donating seeds to our Gardening Club
- Community Member working with Disc Golf Club to improve skills

Stakeholder Response

- Community Response
 - A local fisherman sharing his boat and how he makes “jigs”



Our Future?

- Do we allow students to repeat a club?
- Moving from quarterly time frame to trimesters
- Increasing opportunities for variety across – grade levels
- Allowing teachers to change up their clubs
- Bringing in more community members like our School Resource Officers.
- How to schedule clubs for students who have taken ACT Prep Clubs
- Providing an physical activity club for 8th grade
- Using clubs to create Mini-Courses

Next step: Mini Courses

Next Session, Jack Berckmeyer will be going in depth with what an Honor Programs and Mini Courses... if clubs interest you, his mini-course session inspired us to start clubs.

Next Steps

- Possible Concerns
 - Lack of teacher support?
 - How do I find the time to put an Advisory period in?
 - Will I have enough people?
 - Do I have enough space?
 - Where am I going to put this time period in my schedule?
 - What is the best time of day for an advisory period?
 - Resources/money?
 - Start up concerns?

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