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The Necessity of Mentors: Vertical Tier 2 supports

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In terms of Tier two interventions, we were able to bridge a mentor program over from Couch Middle School after much collaboration so that students who were in need continued to have support. We have a Rite of Passage Ceremony in May of their eighth grade year and continue to meet with them during advisement time, which is a twenty-five minute block during the longest period of the day, throughout the school year. We invite seasoned Life Academy students who have participated in the program since middle school so that they can share their thoughts and wisdom with younger students. In the future, we are going to allow eighth graders to meet these upperclassmen in Life Academy earlier in their school year to foster these relationships and prepare them for high school. Starting in 2017-18, I will teach a class, Peer Leadership I, with some of these students who need this daily support. We will be able to work on issues such as conflict management and self-esteem as well as invite a variety of community guest speakers as well as those from the study body to share with our students. These speakers will convey the significance of meeting our PBIS expectations in the community and on the job as well. We will link this class to Peer Leadership II, which is a class taught by one of our counselors aimed at teaching students to manage conflict appropriately and mediate issues among the student body. We will also link this class to the Principal's Leadership Committee in order to introduce students to various leadership opportunities. Lastly, we will connect this opportunity to our Parent Chat, which takes place on the 3rd Monday of each month. We are also currently working with Starling Elementary School to incorporate the teaching of behavioral expectations.