

WHO & WHY

Durham School of the Arts (DSA) is a comprehensive high school located in Downtown Durham. The school is proud to serve families from across Durham County and specifically has students enrolled in grades 6-12. The school is unique in that 60% of students in 9th grade are already current DSA students.



DURHAM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Data illustrates that some students struggle to successfully transition from middle school to high school. This is especially true for students who have historically struggled academically. Therefore, DSA chose to implement the DSA Advisory Program during the 2019-2020 academic year. This pilot program is designed to provide an extra layer of support for targeted ninth grade students throughout their first year in high school.

WHAT

GOAL: The DSA Advisory Program will provide advising and mentoring to targeted ninth grade students. This will ensure a successful transition from middle school to high school.

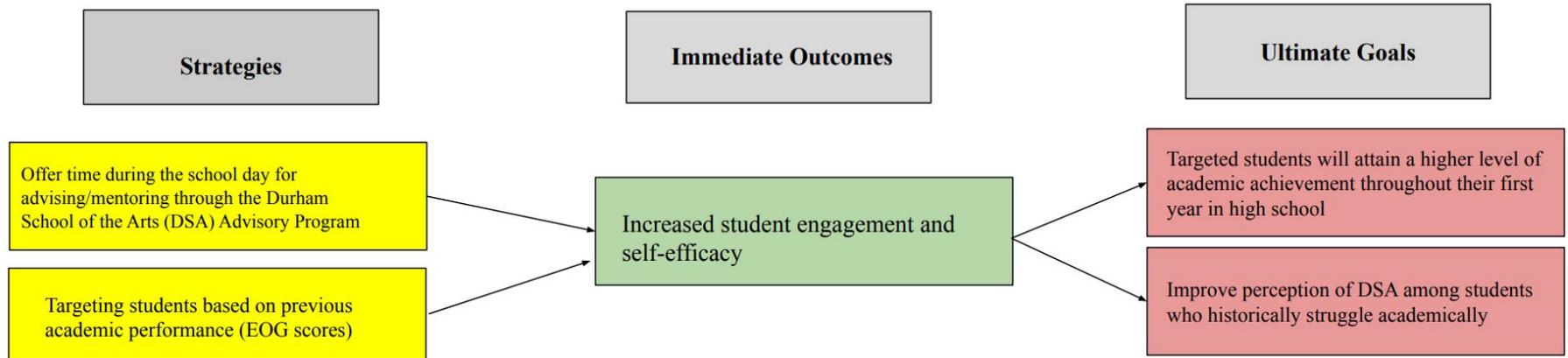
HOW

- ➔ Targeted ninth grade students are those who earned below a 4 on either the eighth grade Math or Reading EOG.
- ➔ Students meet on Tuesdays during lunch with their advisory.
- ➔ Advisors provide advising/mentoring which can include:
 - ◆ Group Discussions, Individual Conferences, Mini Lessons
- ➔ Staff collect a variety of data throughout the academic year to drive strategic decision-making.

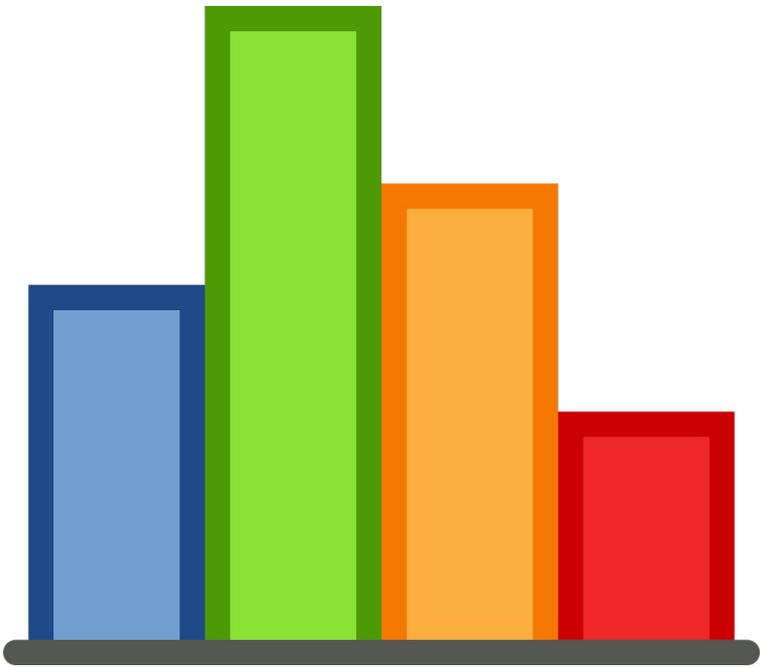
LOGIC MODEL

Durham School of the Arts Advisory Program

The focus of Mr. Do's Problem of Practice is to analyze the effectiveness of the Durham School of the Arts Advisory Program. This pilot program is for current 9th grade students who earned below a 4 on either the Math or Reading EOG in 8th grade. There are currently 134 students and 15 teachers (10 female teachers and 5 male teachers) participating in the program. Students are assigned to a group based on the gender in which they identify (students who identify as male have a male advisor and students who identify as female have a female advisor). Teachers meet with their students (ten in total) once per week on Tuesdays to provide advising to ensure that students are successful throughout the academic year.



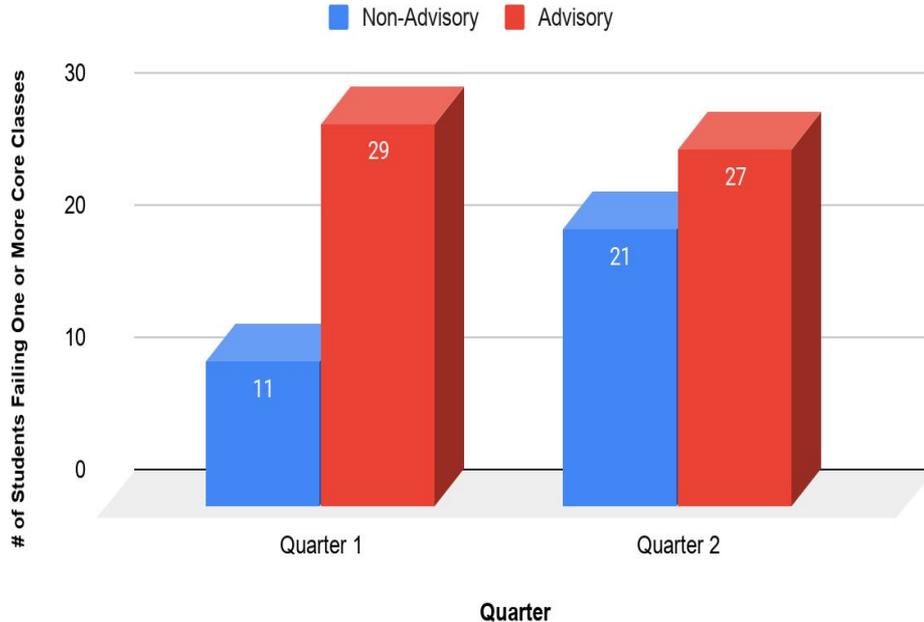
DATA SOURCES



- Student Surveys
- Interviews
- Quarter 1 and 2 Grades
- Discipline Data

RESULTS

Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Grades

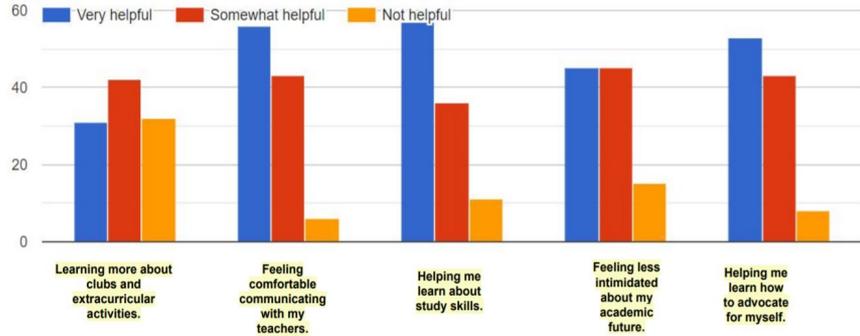


- Q1->Q2 # of Advisory students failing one or more core classes decreased by 2
- Q1->Q2 # of Non-Advisory students failing one or more core classes increased by 10
- No Q3 and Q4 data due to coronavirus pandemic
- Hypothesis: Increase in numbers for both groups in Q3 and a decrease in both groups for Q4
- Overall, I believe that the Advisory Group would have had fewer students failing one or more core classes than the Non-Advisory Group by the end of the academic year.

FEEDBACK

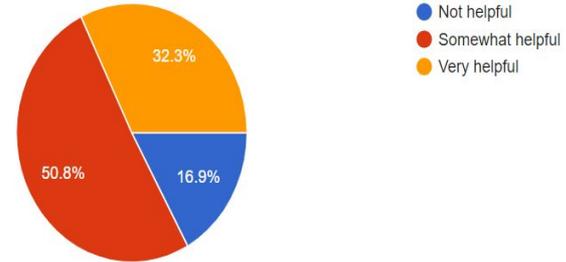
How helpful has DSA Advisory been in the following categories?

101 responses



To what degree do you believe advisory has had a positive impact on you academically?

124 responses



“Advisory has been helpful for times when I do not know my grades. My teacher prints out the progress report and reviews my grades with me.”

-9th Grade Student

“Students value the fact that we are paying attention to them and getting to know them on a more personal level.”-Assistant Principal

“I love the opportunity to work with young people in a small setting so we can look at the big picture of what education can offer each of them and the important role self advocating plays in their development. Students need a place where they can be heard and know that systems are in place to help them all achieve success.” - Teacher

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to offer the DSA Advisory program during the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Provide additional coaching and professional development for advisors on lesson ideas and advising/mentoring best practices.
- Possibly wait until the first progress report to identify students for the program since 8th grade EOG scores are a somewhat faulty metric.

REFLECTION

My conclusion is that the Durham School of the Arts Advisory Program has been a success. It has provided an additional layer of support for targeted students who may have historically struggled academically. In the end, it was another way that a large comprehensive high school can ensure that students successfully transition to 9th grade and establish a strong foundation throughout the academic year.



Durham School of the Arts Advisory Program

Harrison J.L. Do
North Carolina State University



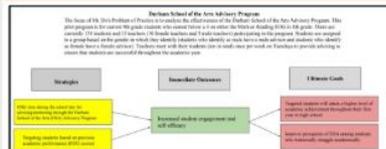
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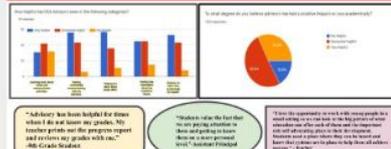


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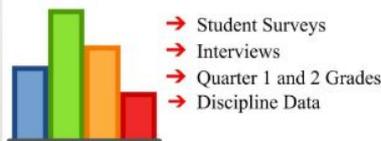
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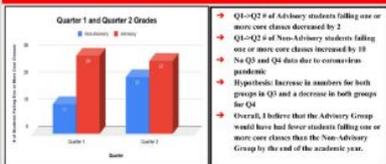
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Screencastify Recording

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aFAyFueBd-3GF4Z6asSSXhoWeLUjZugN/view>