



Vision: 100% Student Achievement

Mission: Every child has someone who cares

Program Goals:

- Support a child's social and emotional development
- Support academic gains
- Improve school involvement and attendance
- Provide an exceptional experience for Lunch Pals and their students

How does Lunch Pals work?

Lunch Pals meet with their student for 30 minutes once a week, during the student's lunch break.

Can I join Lunch Pals after school has started?

Yes – you can join anytime during the school year. We have many students waiting for you. After the year starts, you may be directed to select schools with students who have not yet been matched with a mentor.

What are the expectations for how long I will be a Lunch Pal?

Lunch Pals are committed to meet with their students on the scheduled day and time each week from the time they start until the end of the school year.

Can I be a Lunch Pal with my student for more than one year?

Yes – it is great for the students. Many Lunch Pals follow their student from grade to grade.

What are the benefits of being a Lunch Pal?

Mentoring can be life changing for both the Lunch Pal and the student.

Your willingness to invest time with a child, who may be facing social, economic, family and/or academic challenges in their life will have a great impact. By being accessible and open to listening and not judging, you will create an important connection, allowing your student to be themselves. Building a trusting relationship is so valuable.

You are making a difference through a lasting and meaningful contribution of your time, and it's fun! Lunch Pals have told us it has changed their lives.

Who are the students, and how are they identified?

Each student is identified by school personnel as a child who could benefit from a mentoring relationship. Some students are facing social, economic, family and/or academic challenges, or are just at a point in their lives where they will especially benefit from an additional positive and encouraging adult who spends time with them.

Can I choose the school where I will be a Lunch Pal?

You can choose the school where you would like to be a Lunch Pal, or we can partner you with a child at one of our neediest schools.

Can I meet with my student outside of lunch?

Lunch Pals only meet with students when school is in session at the designated date and time. There is no sharing of personal information and no contact with your student - in person, by phone, on social media, by text or email. There is no contact with the parent or guardian of the student.

What is the process for getting started?

[SIGN UP HERE](#) to attend a Mentor Workshop Webinar and complete the Pinellas County Schools online volunteer registration form. All Lunch Pal applicants must complete an online volunteer registration form and attend a 60- minute Mentor Workshop Webinar.

Once attendance at the workshop is completed and the volunteer registration is approved, the Family and Community Liaison or College & Career Coordinator at the designated school will pair you with a student and set a mutually agreed upon day of the week and time for the student and mentor to meet in person.

What do I talk about with my student? How do I get ideas for each session?

You will learn mentoring strategies in the workshop, and we have created Conversation and Activity Ideas that you can find along with additional information on the PCSB website [RESOURCES](#). However, what you talk about is not as important as your commitment to be present, and to be a good listener. The most important thing that you can do is show up each week.

***Who will contact me if the student is unavailable for our scheduled session?
What if I cannot make my scheduled virtual Lunch Pals session?***

The Family & Community Liaison or College & Career Coordinator at your school will be your main contact and is responsible for keeping you up to date. If your student is unavailable, you will be contacted the morning of your scheduled session, and, if possible, a new day and time can be arranged.

If you cannot make it for your scheduled session, please contact the Family & Community Liaison or Coordinator. Perhaps it can be rescheduled. It is understood that there may be a week when you cannot make it.

Do parents or guardians know their students have a Lunch Pal?

Parents are informed by school personnel to assure they are in favor of their student having this opportunity.

What if I have additional questions?

Contact the [Liaison or Coordinator](#) at your school or the Office of Strategic Partnerships at 727-588-6405.