



Make an Impact



5000 Role Models
Of Excellence



Girlfriends of
Pinellas County

2020-2021 Virtual Mentoring Program

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 Mentors and their students

How does Mentoring work?

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

Is Mentoring face-to-face or virtual?

Mentors will be virtual for the balance of this school year. Once Covid is all clear, Mentors will have several options - to can continue to meet virtually, to mostly meet virtually and occasionally meet at school, or meet at your student's school face-to-face.

Do I have to live in Pinellas County Florida to be a Mentor?

No – with virtual mentoring you can be a Mentor from anywhere. All the students are in Pinellas County Schools, but you can be anywhere.

Can I join now, since school has started?

Yes – you can join anytime during the school year. We have many students waiting for you.

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

Mentors are committed to meet with their students virtually (or face-to-face when permitted) on the scheduled day and time each week from the time they start until the end of the school year.

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

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

What are the benefits of being a Mentor?

Mentoring can be life changing for both the mentor 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 takes time and commitment, but it is well worth the effort.

You are making a difference through a lasting and meaningful contribution of your time, and it's fun! Mentors 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 Mentor?

Mentors is focused on the children who need us most and the schools that need us most. You can choose the school where you would like to be a Mentor, or we can partner you with a child at one of our neediest schools.

Can I meet with my student outside of lunch?

In most cases - no. Mentors 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. All virtual Mentors sessions are monitored by a school employee. This is all designed to protect everyone involved.

In some cases, where an organization has many staff as Mentors at the same school, it is possible to coordinate a field trip to the organization's office. This must be arranged with the school to determine there are no conflicts with testing, etc., and if adequate staff can be available to accompany the visit. The organization would have to underwrite the costs of transportation, etc.

What is the process for getting started?

All Mentor applicants complete an online volunteer registration form and attend a 90-minute Mentor Workshop Webinar

- [Register Here](#) to attend a Mentor Workshop Webinar and complete the volunteer registration form, which is designed to help assure the safety for everyone.

Once attendance at the workshop is completed and the volunteer registration is reviewed, the Family and Community Liaison 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 virtually. The liaison will work with you to set up the virtual procedures.

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

We have created Weekly Activities with suggestions for what to talk about. You can find the Weekly Activities and additional [resources](#) on the PCSB website. You will also receive a mentor strategies handbook.

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 Mentors session?

The family & community liaison 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. Perhaps it can be rescheduled. It is understood that there may be a week when you cannot make it.

What kind of feedback and results will I receive?

Mentors will receive occasional program updates in the Mentors newsletter, and an end-of-the-year-report.

Do parents or guardians know their students have a Mentor?

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

What if I have additional questions?

We are here to help. Please let us know how we can help [HERE](#)



Office of Strategic Partnerships

Lunchpals.org