



Lunch Pals = The Business of Mentoring

What is Lunch Pals? Lunch Pals is a one-to-one mentoring program where a partnering company or organization's employees are matched with students as an additional presence of a caring, consistent and committed adult during lunch. Lunch Pals meet with students in person at the school and can meet virtually.

Who are the students, and how are they identified? Each student is identified by school personnel as a child who could especially benefit from a mentoring relationship. Sometimes they are facing social, 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.

How and when does mentoring happen? Each mentor meets one-to-one with their assigned student for 30 minutes during the student's lunch time on a designated day each week. Mentors only meet with students on school grounds when school is in session or virtually. All virtual sessions are setup by the school and sessions are monitored by the school volunteer liaison. There is no contact (in person, by phone, text or email) with the students outside of the school at any time. There is no contact with the parent or guardian of the student.

What is the process for getting started?

School is Identified

- Business or organization is matched to a nearby school. Schools are also selected based on mentoring needs.

Promotion

- The Lunch Pals Coordinator will develop emails and flyers and provide presentations materials to describe the Lunch Pals program. The Business or organization promotes mentoring to staff.

Orientation and the online application

- Interested employees attend a 1½ hour mentor orientation session held at your site, or virtually. All applicants must complete the online volunteer application and supplying a copy of their driver's license. A Level One background check is run by Pinellas County Schools at no cost to volunteers.

Placement

- The school's Family & Community Liaison will pair the mentor with a student and set a mutually agreed upon day of the week and time for the student and volunteer to meet.

First Visit

- The Family & Community Liaison will orient the volunteer to all procedures, including virtually meeting session or in person meetings. At the school the liaison will review signing in and out at the school's front office, recording volunteer hours, where and how to meet with the student, and facilitate a first meeting with the student.

What are the ongoing procedures?

- Once established, the expectation is that the volunteers are committed to meet with their students on the scheduled day and time each week for the school year.
- If a volunteer cannot attend on the scheduled day, they contact the Family & Community Liaison and if possible, arrange to meet with their student on a different day that week. (It is understood that there may be an occasion when the volunteer will miss a meeting.)
- The Family & Community Liaison will contact the volunteer if their student will not be in school.

What kind of feedback and results will we receive?

- A newsletter that profiles volunteers and provides ideas will be emailed to all volunteers three times per year.
- Lunch Pals are invited to join a virtual coffee hour once a month. Virtual Mentor Coffee Hour is where you can meet with mentors, share stories, ideas, challenges, and network with each other.
- An annual report will be prepared by Pinellas County Schools highlighting Lunch Pals impact based on surveys of students, teachers, principals, school liaisons, and Lunch Pals volunteers.
- An email will be sent quarterly to the designated contact person at the company to invite feedback and offer assistance and resources as needed.

What are the benefits of involvement?

- Making a Difference in our Community!

- As a community partner, you are making a lasting and impactful contribution to youth who need us most. The school and public at large recognize you as an active contributor to the community, taking positive action.
- Happy and Productive Employees Community partners already involved find that Lunch Pals serves as a way to bring employees together towards accomplishing a shared purpose, enhancing morale and motivation as they make a timely and encouraging contribution within Pinellas County Schools.

Watch students on a field trip at Raymond James having lunch with their lunch pals.

<https://vimeo.com/130334630>

We are here to help

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RAYMOND JAMES

Lunch Pals is a partnership between Pinellas County Schools and Raymond James