
Alachua County Public Schools

Mentoring & Volunteering





**MEET OUR
STUDENTS
&
SCHOOLS**

Challenges in Education:

- **High percentage of disadvantaged students**
- **Constant Changes in tests, textbooks, grading formulas, standards**
- **Low funding**
- **Higher Costs**
- **Unfunded mandates**
- **Students still not making gains/progress**

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a teal triangle pointing downwards and a white diagonal line running from the top-left towards the bottom-right.

**How Can You Help?
Volunteer to mentor!**

What is a Mentor?

A mentor is an older, more experienced individual who seeks to further the development of character and competence in a younger person. The role of a mentor could be a big brother or big sister, a role model, but most of all, a friend to the student!

What a Mentor is Not

A parent, counselor, social worker, or spiritual advisor



What kids are saying about mentors:

“My mentor made me feel very special.”

Kody, Second Grade

“Math isn’t really that hard if you just think a minute.”

Boothe, First Grade

“I learned to organize my papers & my time.”

June, Ninth Grade



A Mentor should:

- **Help the student set short & long term goals.**
- **Convey that there is always hope.**
- **Employ role playing for solving problems.**
- **Be an effective listener.**
- **Encourage student to be involved in school & interests or hobbies.**
- **Be sincere & committed.**
- **Develop trust.**
- **Serve as a responsible role model!**

BE THERE!

On time

Dependable

Present

Approachable

Persistent





Simple gestures:

- Remembering things they have shared and asking about them.
- Anticipating new situations and helping them problem solve for themselves.
- Teach them something new.

Truth:

**No gifts are necessary.
Our students will value
your time and will treat
that as a gift if you make it
one.**

Do's of Helping

- Do work for gradual progress and rapport.
- Do be aware of limitations. You can't change the home situation.
- Do give positive reinforcement.
- Do remember that everyone needs to feel valued.
- Do be yourself. If you have questions or are uncomfortable, seek out school personnel.
- Do realize that you may never know the effect you have on your mentee.
- Do encourage your student to work hard in school to graduate.
- Do understand that your coming each week & your caring will make a difference.

Don't's of Helping

- Don't get discouraged.
- Don't feel awkward with silence.
- Don't become overly involved.
- Don't expect quick changes.
- Don't feel you have to have all the answers.
- Don't wait for the mentee to initiate conversations or activities.
- Don't forget your commitment to come each week.
- Don't allow other students to participate in you and your mentee's sessions, except occasionally.
- Don't bring lunch for your mentee without staff approval and then only once in a while.



Other Housekeeping items/Rules:

- Fill out application bit.ly/ACPSapp
- Sign in and sign out -- bring your license!
- Discipline
- Confidentiality
- NO CONTACT OUT OF SCHOOL
- No Pictures of our students
- Phone use is discouraged
- Dress for success
- Follow staff directions during lockdown or fire drills
- Ask staff about bathroom procedures

Disclosures



Often when you build a close and trusted relationships students will disclose personal stories to you. The following disclosures should be reported to a school counselor or administrator immediately.

- Self injury
- Threat to others
- Threat to self
- Abuse or neglect
- Anything that makes feel you uncomfortable or unsafe
- If you witness bullying

Abuse or neglect must also be reported to the abuse hotline. The counselor or other staff member can assist you with this. (1-800-96-ABUSE)

What I liked about having a mentor:

“I like having someone to eat lunch with.”

Julian, Fifth Grade

“He was always nice.”

Zach, Eighth Grade

“She helped me find things I wanted to read.”

Elena, Eleventh Grade

Want to help a different way?

There are

MANY.

Get in touch!

Examples:

- Food Drive
- Science Fair
- Robotics Event
- Classroom Help
- Collecting School Supplies
- Project Makeover
- Guest Speaker



**Kelley Kostamo or
Liz Stark**
Volunteer Office
**Alachua County Public
Schools**
352-955-7250 x 235
