

On Being A Mentor

On behalf of Monforton School we want to offer a huge welcome and thank you for your commitment to this program. Without you this amazing and impactful program would not exist. The Mentee that you will be matched with is carefully selected because we believe that this Mentee is most likely to benefit from you, your personality, and your life experiences. We also believe that each of you in return will also benefit greatly from your relationship with your Mentee.

Your major job is to help your Mentee by becoming his or her close friend in your own way. Accept your Mentee "as is", help enlarge his/her world, strengthen his/her self esteem, reflect back to him/her a clearer picture of his/her identity, and portray a positive role model for him/her to emulate. Your job is NOT to change your Mentee, but to provide an environment, which encourages his/her own interests and potential to develop and flourish.

As a school you can expect us to:

- Answer questions that you might have about the workings of the facility itself.** i.e., how to sign up to eat lunch with your student, where can we go to eat our lunch, is it ok to bring them a small gift at Christmas ...
- Provide you with helpful training needed.**
- Help you deal with any difficulties you may be having with your Mentee.** The Mentor should feel comfortable with making disciplinary corrections but if a problem arises please let Mrs. Flack or Mrs. Kresge know that you are in need of some assistance. It's as easy as that!

As a Mentor we expect you to:

- To make consistent contact with your Mentee.** Inform Ms. Kresge if you know that you are going to be absent ahead of time. It is also thoughtful to inform your Mentee. If you are sick and unable to come on a match day, please call Monforton School @ 586-1557, ask for Clarice and let her know so she can help us plan accordingly for that day. If your Mentee is absent on your scheduled meeting day we will let you know as soon as attendance is taken in the morning and we will reschedule your meeting.
- Maintain your Mentee(s) confidentiality.** This includes not disclosing your Mentee(s) last name or any information that would make them identifiable to another person. Please do not share conversations that you have had with your Mentee, family history that they may have shared, or personal information such as failing grades. You can share their first name, personality traits (i.e. outgoing, talkative,) information about the program, match activities, and how much fun you are having!
- Inform Mrs. Flack of any disclosure the Mentee might make of abuse whether physical, emotional, or sexual in nature.** Remember that you are their friend and tutor – not their therapist.
- Remember that people have different values.** Your Mentee will most likely be from a very different home environment than you. Your best strategy is to model the behavior that you believe is appropriate without imposing your values onto your Mentee.
- If you feel you need more help, ask for additional training information from Monforton School.** Just because you have been accepted as a Mentor does not mean

you are expected to know all the answers. The program exists not only as a support system for your Mentee, but also as a learning opportunity for you.

☐ **Feel comfortable redirecting your Mentee. Consistently let your Mentee know where you stand.** Don't be afraid to set limits. Or to say, "No". As noted above, Mrs. Flack is always available for problem solving if you are feeling frustrated or unsure of appropriate discipline procedures.

☐ **Plan daily match activities with your Mentee.** One-on-one activities are a great way to explore your Mentee's world and no one knows that world better than your Mentee. Brainstorm a list together. Ask your Mentee what it is that they like to do, add some activities of your own or take some from our list of suggestions. Make a plan to choose an activity from the list each day and then alternate from there: Mentee choice – Mentor choice... Be creative!

☐ **Please, communicate your needs!** Ask for help when you need it. If for any reason you are having difficulty meeting the program requirements set up a meeting with Ms.Kresge.

Thank you for your commitment to the Mentors for Monforton program.

Mrs. Flack, Director

Mrs. Kresge, Coordinator