

MENTORING TIPS

- If you must miss a mentoring session, please call the school to leave a message for your student. It is imperative to let your student know that you did not forget about him.
- Every effort should be made to ensure that the student feels privileged and proud to be chosen for this program. Encourage her to be on best behavior after returning to class.
- Give your student an opportunity to share information about things that have happened during the previous week – family events, sporting or news events, accomplishments, pet stories, fears, concerns, etc.
- Help your student develop a positive self-concept by providing him with positive comments. Let him know that you enjoy his company!
- As a role model, you can help the student improve her attitude toward education and develop an enthusiasm for learning. Liking you and wanting to please you can inspire a student to work harder, although the mentor should emphasize that the student works and learns for herself and her own self-improvement.
- You will be working on-on-one with your student and may, from time to time, be asked to assist the student with class assignments or something that is particularly troublesome to the student.
- As early as possible, take action to contact the teacher(s) of your student. If the teacher is busy and unable to talk with you during your regular visit, make an appointment to talk in person or by phone. Share your interest and concern for the student and determine how you can best provide help and support through the teacher's guidance.
- You may learn a lot about a different culture, or lifestyle, or age group. Try not to over-identify with your student; he realizes that you will probably never know exactly what he is feeling or experiencing. There is a big difference between the statements, "I know exactly what you are feeling," and "I think I have a sense of what you are going through."
- It is often helpful to paraphrase what you think your student has said or is feeling or simply repeat what she said and encourage her to tell you more about it. You may want to share examples of similar situations that you have experienced and how you handled them.
- If your student reaches out to you with problems that are serious and possibly harmful to him or to others, you must contact your school-level coordinator. You are not expected to solve serious problems or to be a therapist! Don't wait – talk with a school person right after your session or offer to go with the student to talk with the counselor right then.
- Do not expect immediately visible results from your student. In most cases, it takes time to establish a rapport and see improvement. Ask the teacher or coordinator for feedback.
- Be yourself and enjoy your time together!