

Northside Mentoring Program Overview

Purpose:

To support the education and health of students at Northside Elementary School by leveraging the volunteer spirit of First Free Church, Northside Community Church, and our La Crosse community.

Why mentoring matters:

- The goal of each mentoring relationship will be to help a student transition into the school day so that they can be successful in their school environment. Desired outcomes include: improved academic performance, fewer disciplinary referrals, and greater display of school district values of “respectful, responsible, safe.”
- A study conducted in 2007 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation showed that mentored youth did significantly better than youth in the non-mentored comparison group on a number of important outcome measures including: fewer depressive symptoms, greater acceptance by their peers, more positive beliefs about their ability to succeed in school, and better grades in school.

How it will work:

- Mentors from First Free Church, Northside Community Church, and the greater La Crosse community can choose from two mentoring options:
 - One morning each week from 8:00am-8:30am
 - One lunchtime period for 30 minutes
 - Mentors can volunteer more than one morning and/or lunchtime each week if their schedule allows.
 - If there is an alternative time that works better for you, let us know as we can accommodate that too.
- Each student selected for the mentorship program (selected by Northside Elementary School staff) will be paired with a mentor who can provide consistent weekly support during the school year.
- The mentors will greet their students as they enter at 8:00am; sit with students and talk to them, escort students to lockers and classroom and help them get organized; and coach students through transition into the classroom. The focus will be on building a trusting relationship and allowing the student to experience positive adult contact.
- For mentors here over the lunch periods, the time for the half hour you will spend with your student will depend on the student’s schedule for lunch.

This program has been adapted from the Gundersen Global Partners – At Home Mentoring Program.

Interested in volunteering?

Please fill out an Interest Form by clicking the “Become a Mentor” button.

Prior to being paired with a student, individuals interested in mentoring will need to complete:

- A background check form from the School District of La Crosse
- A Northside Mentoring Volunteer Form
- A 2-hour orientation that provides more background on the partnership and expectations for the mentoring relationships