Mentors Make Great People Possible
The Basics

- Youth Mentors strives to promote collaboration between students and the community by connecting caring adults with kids in school.

- Studies show the presence of a positive adult role model in a young person's life:
  - Builds confidence
  - Encourages kids to set and achieve goals
  - Helps young people succeed

- Schools provide a safe environment in which this partnership can occur, and meets the students in a natural environment.
How it Works

- Students can be referred for Olathe’s Youth Mentor program anytime.
- When a match is determined, a time will be established when they will be able to meet for one hour or more a week.
- Goals may be outlined with the mentor and the student. The focus of the time together may be specific to one area, or the mentor may be involved in a diverse amount of school-based activities.
What a Youth Mentor Does

- Gives time to
  - Share common interests
  - Be available as someone the student can talk to
  - Do things together or just hang out

- May be paired one-on-one with a student or in a group setting. Many mentors and students use their time by:
  - Having lunch
  - Playing sports or a game
  - Discussing future plans
  - Working on homework
  - Just talking
You can support Youth Mentors

- Become a Youth Mentor
  - Professional Growth Plan
    - Identify becoming a Youth Mentor as an individual or Team goal
- Other important ways we need your support:
  - Encouraging parents or other qualified adults to become a Youth Mentor
  - Referring students
How to become a Youth Mentor

- Fill out a paper application or apply online at www.olatheschools.com/community2/volunteering/youth mentors

- Selected applicants will be placed in a convenient, yet appropriate location.

- Applicants are screened using a thorough process of background checks and must be in compliance with Olathe volunteer standards of conduct.

- Youth Mentors attend orientation and trainings, equipping them with information and resources in being an effective mentor.
Referring Students

• How to refer:
  • Referral Form: Can be filled out by Parents, Counselors, Teachers, or Administrators
  • ParentPermission: Filled out by parent/guardian before partnership begins
  • Return these to your child’s counselor. She will be in contact with District Coordinator in regards to a match.

• There are copies of these forms available today, or you can pick one up from your child’s counselor throughout the school year.
Resources

- District Youth Mentor Coordinator
  - Heather Schoonover
    - (913)780-7002 or hschoonovernlsc@olatheschools.org

- CST Building Contacts
  - Brenda Robinson, Counselor
  - Beth Hufnagel, Counselor

- Website
  - www.olatheschools.com/Community2/volunteering