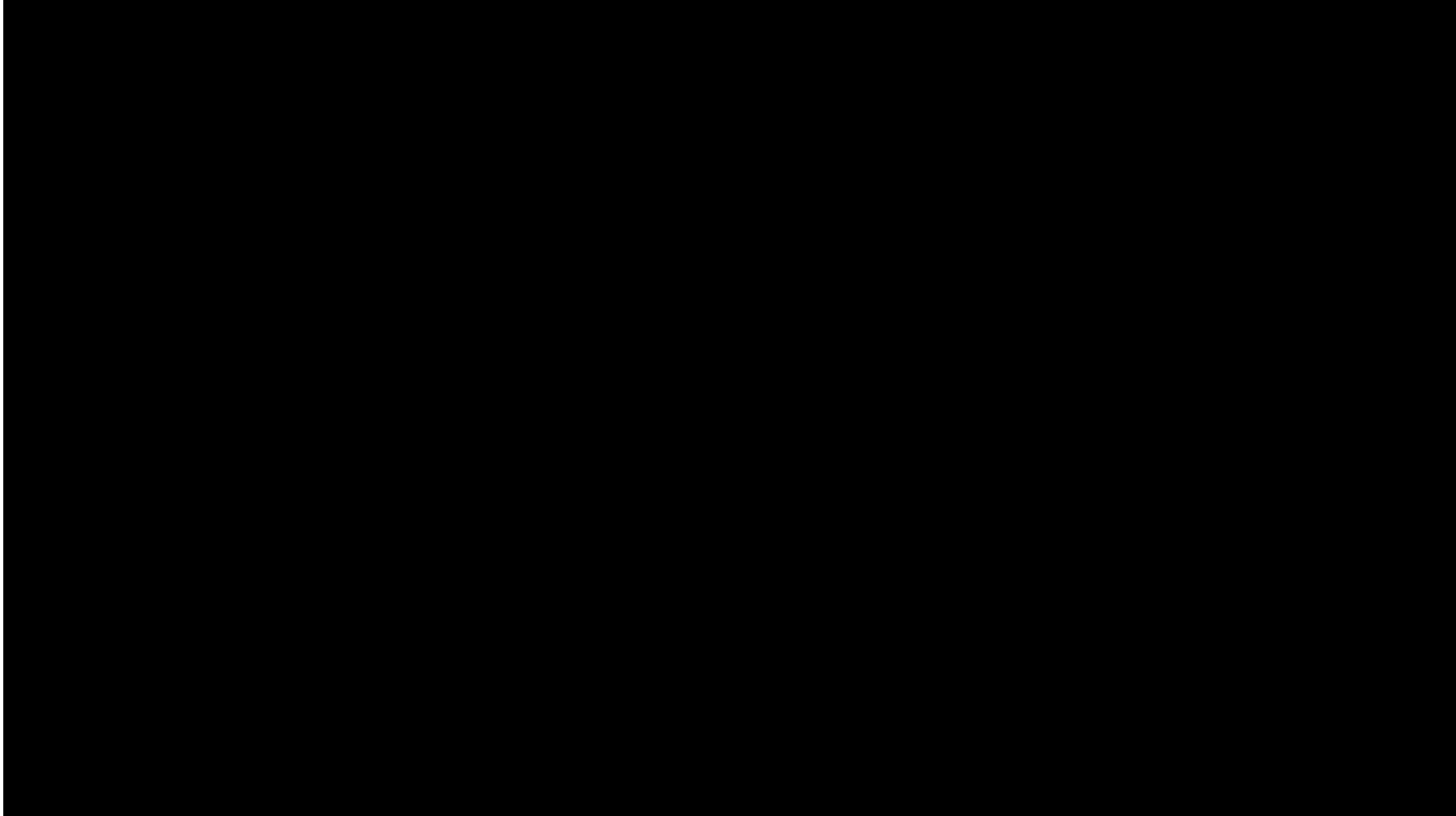


DREAM-CATCHER MENTOR ORIENTATION TRAINING



The Power of Mentoring



- 10th largest school district in the U.S.
- 37 schools, centers, and programs
- Over 2,200 students served last year
- 56% eligible for free/reduced-price meals
- 48% receive ESOL services
- 18% receive special education services

*does not include data from our alternative learning centers

Cultural Diversity

13.7%	White
59.7%	Hispanic
6.7%	Asian
16.3%	Black
2.6%	Multi-Racial



Resources

- FCPS is fortunate in that we have an abundance of resources
- But that does not mean that every student has access to those resources
- And it doesn't mean that we have enough HUMAN resources

Which is why we need YOU!



What is a Mentor?

A mentor is a **caring, responsible** person who is interested in giving time to a student, while **encouraging** the child to develop his or her **strengths** and **capabilities**

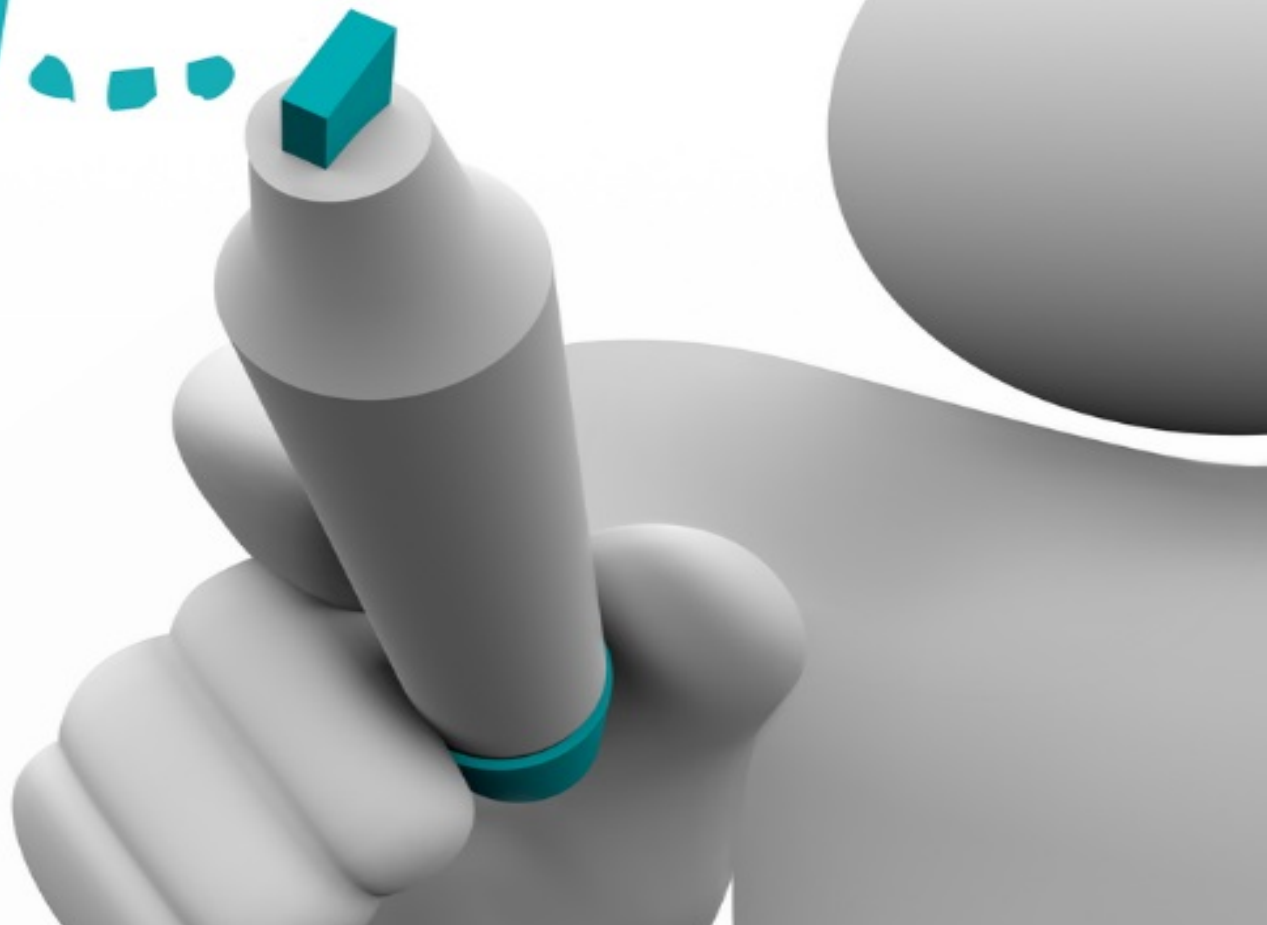


What is a Mentor?

Mentors encourage mentees to make
healthy life decisions or to **seek
additional help** as needed



How
To...



Motivations & Expectations

Your **motivations** and **goals** can impact the quality and longevity of the mentoring relationship

So... you need to ask yourself

Ask yourself....



- Why do I want to mentor?
- What do I hope to give to this relationship?
- What am I hoping to gain from this relationship?

Characteristics of a mentor

Trustworthy

Empathic

Authentic

Be Trustworthy

Dependable

- You show up on time
- You are realistic about your commitments

Respect privacy

- You don't share info about the mentee (unless it is necessary to protect the student)

Follow through with commitments

- If you say you will do it...do it

Be Empathetic

Actively listen with the heart



- Listen reflectively for feelings & concerns
- Pay attention to non-verbal communication
- Listen....but don't offer unsolicited advice
- Thank the mentee for sharing

Be Authentic

- Turn the phone off when you are with the mentee
- Respect WHO the mentee is
- Be honest with the mentee
- Offer genuine compliments and praise

A mentor is....



1.

A positive role model



2.

An adult friend



3.

A guide

A mentor is NOT....

1. 

A parent figure or disciplinarian

2. 

A classroom teacher

3. 

An ATM machine

4. 

A mental health specialist

Stages of Mentoring Relationships

Mentoring relationships...
like all relationships...
take time

The “getting to know you” Stage

“Getting to Know You” Stage

- Explore interests & fun facts
- Find a way to connect

Friendship Stage - Goal setting

- Should be realistic and reachable
- Check-in on progress and celebrate

Closure

- Should be meaningful and sincere
- Confirm appropriate way to stay in touch

If you hit a rough patch...

Reach out to your school's
Dream-Catcher's liaison for
help



Nuts and Bolts



Program Logistics

- Must commit for 1 school year
- Meet with mentee at school site at least 1x/month; 2x is recommended
- Attend all Dream-Catcher events with mentee (a calendar of events will be provided to you). Typically at least once a month.
- The school Dream-Catcher liaison will ensure that all FCPS mentees have parental permission to participate in the program.



Mentors and Mentees are MATCHED

Common mentor and mentee academic interests



Where Can Mentoring Take Place?

- Mentoring occurs **at the school site and George Mason University** during the school day (and some evenings)
 - Meet in a common space with open doors (e.g., school grounds, lunch room, courtyard, library)
 - Not in closed classrooms or offices
- If contacts outside the school are planned, the mentor must obtain advanced parental permission

School Protocol

Safety and Security

- Sign in/out at the main office
- Wear FCPS Volunteer ID badge at all times

Ask for school specific information

- School year calendar
- Student's schedule
- Acceptable meeting places
- Inclement weather policy

Confidentiality

The mentoring relationship is built on trust, so confidentiality is an important aspect.

**HOWEVER THERE ARE
EXCEPTIONS!**

Safety is our priority!

Mentors **MUST** notify the Dream-Catcher liaison **immediately** if the student confides (or if the mentor suspects) that the student is the victim of abuse or is involved in illegal activity

Harm to Self

Harm to Others

Harm by
Others
(neglect & abuse)

Advice:

If you are “uneasy” about anything, talk with Dr. Kitching and/or the Dream-Catcher liaison at the school site

Please turn to page 11 of your mentoring manual

Reach out to your school's
Dream-Catcher liaison for help



Thought for the day!

The basic premise of all relationships is that people are happier and more likely to make positive changes when you do things *with* them rather than *to* them or *for* them

Questions?

