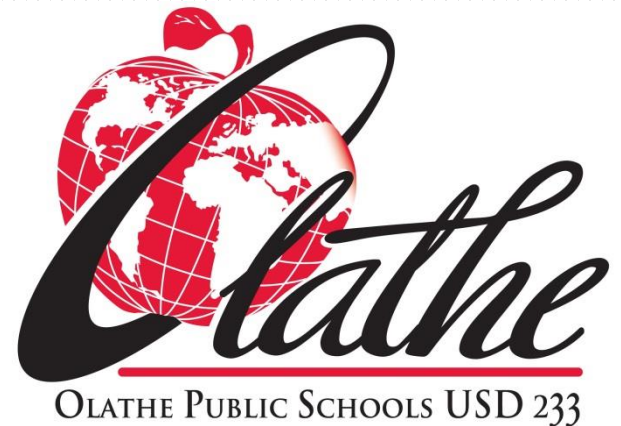


Youth Mentors

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 to 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/youthmentors
- 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
 - Parent Permission: 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

