Tips for Mentors

Mentors are coaches who encourage, teach, guide, support, and assist the mentees in moving from where they are now to where they want to be.

Mentees are folks who are new to the profession, grade level, or school system who need support for a successful transition.

- Be positive and supportive.
- Offer advice when the need is expressed.
- Be accepting of mentee's level of skill.
- Be accessible – call, email, visit without an "agenda".
- Meet on a regular basis.
- Be a friend.
- Remember that mentees must be "ready" to learn before ideas will be accepted – wait for the right moment.
- Be a cheerleader.
- Focus on your mentee's expressed needs.
- Share time-saving ideas.
- Share lessons.
- Don't take "rejection" of an idea personally.
- Be trustworthy. Confidences that are shared should remain in confidence.
- Listen.
- Do something fun together.
- Don't wait for your mentee to call you. Contact your buddy frequently.
- Go to staff development together.
- Help mentee think through problems to find a solution.
- Be non-threatening.
- Be a good buddy.
- Invite your mentee to observe your program.
- Chat about system directives, memos, and events making sure mentee understands what to do.
- Go to conferences and author visits together.
- Stop by for a visit after school.