



FALL 2023

GPS Mentor Program



Mentor Program News

WE BEGAN THE 23/24 SCHOOL YEAR WITH OVER 50 MENTOR/MENTEE MATCHES! OUR MENTOR TEAM IS COMPRISED OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS WELL AS GPS EMPLOYEES. 95% OF OUR MENTORS FROM THE 22/23 SCHOOL YEAR OPTED TO RETURN THIS YEAR AND CONTINUE TO MEET WITH THEIR MENTEES! WE NOW HAVE STUDENTS MATCHED WITH MENTORS IN ALL 5 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, GROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND FITCH HIGH SCHOOL!

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR BUILDING COMMUNITY COORDINATORS! THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING SURE OUR MENTORS/MENTEES HAD A SEAMLESS START TO THIS SCHOOL YEAR!

ALTHOUGH OUR SCHOOL YEAR ENDED IN JUNE, THE MENTOR PROGRAM CONTINUED WITH MULTIPLE RECRUITING EVENTS. OUR MENTORS VOLUNTEERED TO SPEAK ABOUT OUR PROGRAM AT MULTIPLE COMMUNITY EVENTS THIS SUMMER. AS A RESULT, WE RECRUITED MANY NEW MENTORS!

AS OUR PROGRAM GROWS, SO DOES OUR NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF! WE HAVE RECENTLY HIRED LEIGH SAMMONS AS OUR MENTOR INTAKE COORDINATOR. AS A RETIRED TEACHER AND MENTOR, LEIGH IS THE PERFECT PERSON TO MEET OUR PERSPECTIVE MENTORS AND TO SHARE ABOUT THE AMAZING MENTORING EXPERIENCE!

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MENTOR, FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW! WE LOOK FORWARD TO GROWING OUR MENTOR TEAM AND MATCHING MORE STUDENTS WITH "CHAMPIONS!"

WWW.GROTONSCHOOLS.ORG/MENTOR

Newsletter Highlights

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

MENTOR GRATITUDE PARTNERSHIPS

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Community Partnerships

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Throughout the last year, the mentor program has grown with the help of many community partners. We were recently awarded a \$2000 grant from Pfizer which allowed us to purchase new materials for our mentor cabinets. We are thrilled to partner with Pfizer and provide our mentors and mentees with science, technology and math materials to explore together!

Gratitude Partners

Not everyone can be a mentor, but many members of the Groton community wish to support our program! As a result, we have established the Gratitude Partners Program. Local business may choose to donate gift cards or product as a way to show gratitude for our mentors who have time to give!

This quarter, **Ryan's Pub** has chosen to be a *Gratitude Partner*. Ryan's Pub is a veteran owned business located in Groton. Ryan's Pub has donated a \$25 gift card to our program as a way to say thank you to one of our committed mentors!

The winner of this quarter's *Mentor Gratitude Partner* reward is.... **Heather Holiday**
Thank you Heather and to all of our approved mentors!
You are truly champions for our students!

Please support the local businesses that chose to support our program!



Upcoming Mentor Events

January 17th

National Mentor Month Breakfast

April 25th

Mentor/Mentee Recognition Dinner

Mentor Spotlight - *Jennifer Ursini*

Jennifer Ursini is the mom of three young adult children and enjoys being active. When not mentoring, she is an elementary math tutor for Groton Public Schools. Jennifer has been a GPS mentor since October, 2023.

What is your favorite thing to do with your mentee?

Have a relaxing conversation over a craft or game, and listening to and understanding her.

What is your most memorable mentoring moment?

Decorating cupcakes and cookies with my mentee. It was the first time that my mentee had the opportunity to do this. My mentee was so excited to share the finished product with her family.

Why did you want to become a mentor?

To provide a constant presence in a child's life. I look forward to meeting with my mentee every week. I hope it's just as rewarding for her as it is for me.