



# **PENCIL PAL PROGRAM**



North Side School is beginning a Pencil Pal program for 1st and 2nd graders. The program will not officially begin until the first part of February.

## **Purpose of the Program**

The purpose of the Pencil Pal Program is to give students a chance to write and communicate with community members. It is an opportunity for students to practice their writing skills. It is also a great way to involve the community of Fairfield in the great things our school is doing.

## **How the Program Works**

Community members will be assigned two Pencil Pals. North Side Pencil Pals will initiate the back-and-forth communication with an opening letter. The letters will then be delivered to the Community Pencil Pals. A due date will be given for the letters to be returned along with envelope to mail it. You may also drop it back off at the school.

## **Tips for Pencil Pal Writing**

Questions are always a great way to keep the conversation going with students. In the classroom, we will try to encourage students to come up with two questions for their pencil pal. Students also love to know what you do, favorite foods, pets, places traveled, etc.

## **The Big Reveal**

Sometime in May before school gets out we will have a Pencil Pal party in which Community Pencil Pals will be invited in to meet their North Side Pencil Pals in person. It is definitely okay if you can't make the party, we'll have your Pencil Pal paired with another volunteer.

## **How to Become Involved**

Email Dr. England, principal of North Side School, at [sengland@fairfieldcolts.com](mailto:sengland@fairfieldcolts.com) to let him know you are interested. He will then contact you to collect information such as address, phone number, and the best way to deliver Pencil Pal correspondences.

## **What to Expect When the Program Begins**

Students will initiate first contact by writing a general letter that says, "Dear Pencil Pal" in the beginning of February. Letters will then be delivered or mailed by Pencil Pal volunteers. The letters will have a due date to have the reply letter returned to the school. Correspondences will continue until around the end of April. You can expect to write between 3-4 letters.

## **Some Do's and Don'ts**

- Do ask questions in your letters. This helps students come up with things to write about in their next letter.
- Do share fun facts about when you were in school.
- Don't write in cursive; students typically struggle with reading cursive (typing a letter is definitely acceptable).