



2024 -2025

GPS Mentor Program



"Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."

— Rita Pierson

The 2024-2025 school year was another great year for the mentor program. The program saw an increase in mentor/mentor relationships, growing to over 75 matches. This year we extended our reach to provide mentorship to Groton students attending Grasso Technical High School as well as the Marine Science Magnet High School.

Throughout the year, mentors and mentees gathered weekly to play cards, games, conduct experiments, color, take walks or just chat! Over $\frac{2}{3}$ of our students are finishing year three of the mentor program, most with the same mentor. In January, mentees made cards for their mentors to celebrate National Mentor Month.

Our annual Mentor/Mentee/Family dinner was held on May 7th at Fitch High School. The dinner and additional festivities were provided by local restaurants and GPS food service. Mentors were recognized with certificates and personalized pots of Thyme grown by the GPS Farm to School program. Two of our fifth grade mentees read a poem called The Power of One as a tribute to our amazing mentors. It was a wonderful night for mentors, mentees and families to spend time together!

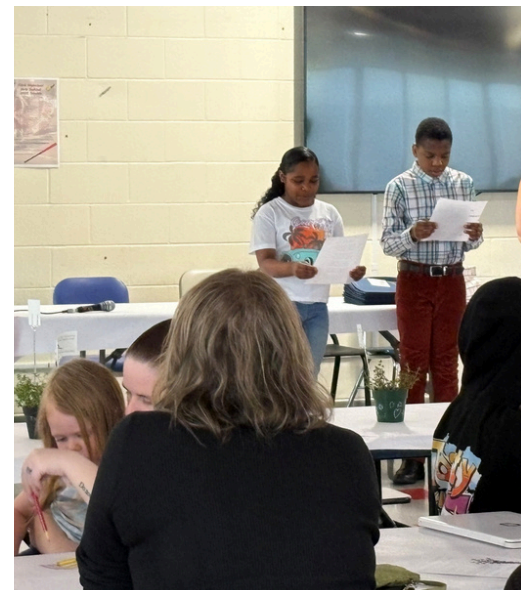
Our program is always looking for adult mentors to join our team. If you are interested in or know someone who may be interested in being a "Champion" for a Groton student, please visit our website www.grotonschoools.org/mentor and fill out an interest form.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Highlights

Community Partners

Mentor Spotlight



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We are thrilled to have had so many community partners this year!! Thank you to the following businesses that have supported our program!





Mentor Spotlight

Mayor Keith Hedrick

Why did you want to become a GPS mentor?

I have been a mentor for approximately two school years and have worked with the same student since he was in fourth grade. I plan to continue working with him when he transitions to Groton Middle School next year!

I love to work with the children in Groton. I read to the Riverfront Children's Center and Head Start children. This was a natural extension of my relationship with local children.

What is your most memorable moment as a mentor?

There have been many great moments during my time in the mentor program. Watching my mentee's reaction when he is able to accomplish something for the first time is a special moment.

Why would you recommend the program to other adults in the community?

This is an opportunity to positively impact one child's life directly and while doing so, you may find out a little bit more about who you are.

Know someone who would make a great mentor? Send them our way!

www.grotonschools.org/mentor

Currently looking for new mentors to begin Fall 2025!