

TriDistrict College and Career Readiness Initiative and Two Rivers High School Mentor Program Fall 2025

The TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative is a unique partnership that has developed between the school districts of South St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights and West. St. Paul - Mendota Heights - Eagan. This partnership between the districts is a collaborative effort to guarantee that all students of South St. Paul Secondary School, Simley High School, and Two Rivers High School graduate with a plan for their “next step” and has the skills, knowledge, attributes and attitudes to be successful, wherever that next step takes them.

Of critical importance for students is for them to have a wide array of Career and College Readiness experiences, exposures, and explorations. To support the goals of our Initiative in this regard, we are looking for mentors from the community to share their time, experience and expertise from their world of work.

One such opportunity is our *Mentor Program* at Two Rivers High School as a part of their Warrior Seminar course, a class in which all 9th graders at Two Rivers enroll.

Mentors

Based upon feedback from business professionals, parents, students and teachers, mentors and mentees meet to discuss:

- Introductions, Mentor background and experience, and topics of career interest for students
- How to present themselves at a job interview, including the application prior to an interview, and the interview process itself
- Transferable skills—how the skills and habits we’re developing in high school prepare us for what will be asked of us in the future.
- What it means to “show up” to work, home, and school

Preparation / How it Works

The main preparation for mentors is to simply reflect on their own stories of the work they currently do now, how they’ve come to be where they are, and how their path(s) may have changed. We’ll then ask mentors to then share with students what it takes to get started in a career field of interest or begin to develop the professional skills needed for any career, by getting that all important “first job.” When mentoring sessions start, the week prior to each session, mentors will be sent a reminder that includes information and other materials as a heads up for the following week’s meeting topic. The main activities of meetings will be connecting with students and facilitating a conversation around the week’s topic (the four bullet points listed above)

Time Commitment

We ask Mentors to meet with a minimum of two groups of 5-6 students for a total of 10-12 students, four times throughout the semester, for approximately one hour and forty-five minutes (2 separate class periods—one group of students per class period) each visit (a total of less than 8 hours across the year). If you can’t make the two-period commitment work for your schedule, please contact me as we can likely work something out.

The time slots we need mentors for this fall are:

- 1st and 2nd periods (approx. 8:25am-10:10am)
- 2nd and 3rd periods (approx. 9:15am-11am)
- 4th and 5th periods (approx. 11:00am-12:50pm)

Dates

Meeting dates for the Fall of the 2025-2026 school year: (mentors select a time slot from above and then meet during that time on the following dates. Dates of Mentor sessions in the Fall Semester are:

Friday, October 10th

Friday, November 7th

Friday, December 12th

Friday, January 9th

Contact Ben Kusch, Lead Designer of the TriDistrict Career and College Readiness Initiative, with any questions, at bkusch@tridistrictce.org