



**Zephyr Buddies Mentor Recognition
May 27, 2021**





About the Program

- This school year, a staff and community member group formed to build peer-to-peer student relationships and community relationships at Mahtomedi Public Schools.
- One of the projects that the group has worked on is called the Zephyr Buddies. The Buddies program is a mentoring program between secondary students (grades 6-12) and elementary students (grades K-5).
- Knowing that the COVID-19 pandemic has meant many challenges to students, the Zephyrs Buddies program aims to help students make new friendships and connections during an unprecedented time.
- The staff and community members, called the Zephyrs Community Connections Group, started organizing the Buddies program in January of 2021.
- All secondary and elementary students were invited to participate in the program. The elementary students were paired with secondary students based on their interests, which ranged from lego challenges to arts and crafts.
- The Buddies held their first virtual meeting in February and met every other week via Google Meet. They held their first in-person meeting on May 4.



The Zephyr Buddies Program was featured in the [White Bear Press](#) on May 12, 2021

"I think this is so valuable. I love being a mentor/role model. **I want to be someone my buddy can trust and just be another person she can talk to about anything.** I am having so much fun, and I hope she is too. This is such an awesome program, and I really look forward to the meetings."



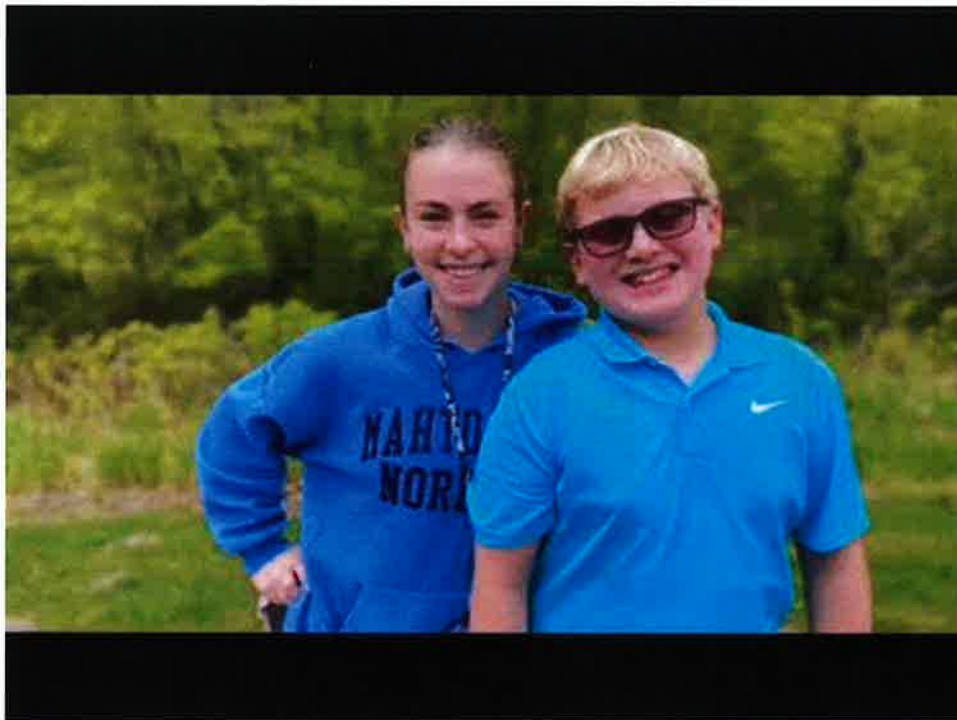
From Our Mentors



"I get to understand the life of a little kid again and how happy they are. They remind me of an easier time."

"I believe that I am getting an opportunity to be a role model and help guide and support a younger child. I want to help my Mentee and it can be with anything, sports, school, friends, etc. **I feel that I am making an impact on my Mentee's life and I will cherish that.** And not only am I impacting her life, but she is also impacting mine. I get to feel what it's like to be in Kindergarten again, and every time I talk to her, she always puts a smile on my face."





A Mentee Perspective

One of our mentees, Grier Hamen (fourth-grade student at O.H. Anderson Elementary School) shares about his experience with the Zephyr Buddies program.

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Lily Gornik
Anika Liner
Greta Liner
Ava Hanson
Sabrina Corbera
Ian Gloege
Claire Wendland
Ava Kaiser
Ishana Didwania
Kylie Lallak
Sarah Brings
Smriti Samtani
Abby Bruggeman
Milena Ficcadenti