



Sonja Ortman, MS/HS Principal
Scott Boomgaarden, Dean of Students
Tanya Schroyer, MS Counselor

Ellen Dulas, HS Counselor
Kaysee Slaba, Social Worker
Rick Zollner, Activities Director

School Board Report

December 2025

Overview- This report outlines the benefits of partnering with community adults to mentor at-risk middle school students. Research consistently shows that strong, positive relationships with caring adults improve both academic and social outcomes for students who need additional support.

Benefits of Community Mentorship-

- **Academic Support and Engagement:**
Mentors help students stay organized, encourage consistent effort, and build confidence. Mentored students often show improved grades, better participation, and fewer classroom concerns.
- **Social-Emotional Growth:**
Trusted adult mentors model effective communication, problem-solving, and emotional regulation. Students benefit from having someone who listens, supports them, and reinforces positive decision-making.
- **Improved Attendance and School Connection:**
Students who feel valued and supported are more likely to attend school regularly and stay engaged. Mentorship increases their sense of belonging and connection to both school and community.
- **Future Readiness:**
Mentors expose students to real-world experiences, careers, and goal-setting skills that prepare them for high school and beyond.
- **Community–School Partnership:**
This program strengthens our ties with local volunteers, bringing community members into our buildings in a positive and impactful way.

Program Implementation

Students will be identified for participation during second semester using teacher recommendations, attendance and grade data, and counseling input. We aim to launch the program in **February**, with mentors meeting students **weekly during lunch** in a structured, supervised setting.

Conclusion

Partnering with community adults offers a meaningful way to support at-risk middle school students academically, socially, and emotionally. Beginning small in February will allow us to build a strong foundation and expand the program over time.