

# Northside Mentoring Program Overview

## Purpose:

To support the education and health of students at Northside Elementary School by leveraging the volunteer spirit of First Free Church, Northside Community Church, and our La Crosse community.

## Why mentoring matters:

- The goal of each mentoring relationship will be to help a student transition into the school day so that they can be successful in their school environment. Desired outcomes include: improved academic performance, fewer disciplinary referrals, and greater display of school district values of “respectful, responsible, safe.”
- A study conducted in 2007 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation showed that mentored youth did significantly better than youth in the non-mentored comparison group on a number of important outcome measures including: fewer depressive symptoms, greater acceptance by their peers, more positive beliefs about their ability to succeed in school, and better grades in school.

## How it will work:

- Mentors from First Free Church, Northside Community Church, and the greater La Crosse community can choose from two mentoring options:
  - One morning each week from 7:45-8:30am
  - One lunchtime period for 30 minutes
  - Mentors can volunteer more than one morning and/or lunchtime each week if their schedule allows.
- Each student selected for the mentorship program (selected by Northside Elementary School staff) will be paired with a mentor who can provide consistent weekly support during the school year.
- The mentors will greet their students as they enter at 7:45am; sit with students and talk to them, escort students to lockers and classroom and help them get organized; and coach students through transition into the classroom. The focus will be on building a trusting relationship and allowing the student to experience positive adult contact.

**This program has been adapted from the Gundersen Global Partners – At Home Mentoring Program.**

## Interested in volunteering?

Please fill out an Interest Form by clicking the “Become a Mentor” button.

Prior to being paired with a student, individuals interested in mentoring will need to complete:

- A background check form from the School District of La Crosse
- A Northside Mentoring Volunteer Form
- A 2-hour orientation that provides more background on the partnership and expectations for the mentoring relationships

“We recognize that we are much more effective when we operate as a community on behalf of our children. We are grateful for the generosity of so many caring adults and excited about the possibilities for the future!”

Laura Huber, Principal