



Lunch Pals = The Business of Mentoring

Make an Impact

What is Lunch Pals?

Lunch Pals is a lunch time mentoring program where businesses, community organizations and individuals are paired with a school to provide students with the additional presence of caring adults.

Who are the students, and how are they identified?

Each student is identified by school personnel as a child who could especially benefit from a mentoring relationship. Sometimes they are facing social, family and/or academic challenges, or are just at a point in their lives where they will especially benefit from an additional positive and encouraging adult who spends time with them.

Do parents or guardians know their students have mentors?

Parents are informed by school personnel to assure they are in favor of their student having this opportunity.

How and when does mentoring happen?

Each mentor meets one-to-one with their assigned student for 30 minutes during the student's lunch time on a designated day each week. Mentors only meet with students on school grounds when school is in session. There is no contact (in person, by phone, text or email) with the students outside of the school at any time. There is no contact with the parent or guardian of the student.

What is the process for getting started?

- *School is Identified*
Pinellas County Schools matches the company/organization with a nearby school.
- *Promotion*
The company/organization informs staff of the opportunity and provides names of volunteers. The Lunch Pals Coordinator is available to develop emails and flyers and provide presentations to describe the opportunity.
- *Orientation and Application*
A 1½ hour mentor orientation session is held at your site, with participants completing the volunteer application and supplying a copy of their driver's license. A Level I background check is run by Pinellas County Schools at no cost to volunteers.
- *Placement*
The school's Family & Community Liaison will pair the mentor with a student and set a mutually agreed upon day of the week and time for the student and volunteer to meet.
- *First Visit*
The Family & Community Liaison will orient the volunteer to all procedures, including signing in and out at the school's front office, recording volunteer hours, where and how to meet with the student, and facilitate a first meeting with the student.

What are the ongoing procedures?

- Once established, the expectation is that the volunteers are committed to meet with their students on the scheduled day and time each week for the school year.
- If a volunteer cannot attend on the scheduled day, they contact the Family & Community Liaison and if possible, arrange to meet with their student on a different day that week. (It is understood that there may be an occasion when the volunteer will miss a meeting.)
- The Family & Community Liaison will contact the volunteer if their student will not be in school.

What kind of feedback and results will mentors receive?

Periodic newsletters and reports on how the program is progressing will be emailed to provide updates and resources.

What are the benefits of involvement?

- *Making a Difference*
As a community partner, you are making a lasting and impactful contribution to youth who need us most. The school and public at large recognize you as an active contributor to the community, taking positive action.
- *Impacting Productivity and Satisfaction*
Community partners already involved find that Lunch Pals serves as a way to bring employees/members together towards accomplishing a shared purpose, enhancing morale and motivation as they make a timely and encouraging contribution within Pinellas County Schools.

We are here to help.

Susan Schneck and Ron Diner can be contacted any time with questions, or please visit lunchpals.org

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Lunch Pals

A partnership between Pinellas County Schools and Raymond James
Supported by more than 40 business/community organization partners

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