



END OF THE YEAR TIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Here are a few fun
tips and ideas to help
you successfully
wrap up the year with
your mentee.



CLARKE COUNTY
MENTOR
PROGRAM



Wrapping up the Year as a Mentor

Congratulations, you have made it to the end of the academic school year! Thank you for your commitment to the students of CCSD and CCMP. Hopefully, your mentee/mentor experience has developed into a strong/er relationship this year. Though the academic year is ending, students may appreciate having some form of closure to conclude their mentoring experience. Closure can look different for each mentor relationship and it is up to you to decide how you would like to end the academic year. Whether you are terminating your mentor relationship or simply wrapping up the year, you will find different tips and activities to assist you.

For ALL Mentors

- Inform your mentee, counselor, and CCMP whether you will be committing to another year with the program.
- Talk with your mentee about the end of the school year.
 - How many more times will you come to visit?
 - Complete an age appropriate “end of the year activity.” Continue to read for ideas for this activity.
- Talk with your mentee about whether/how you will stay in contact over the summer or talk about why this won’t/can’t happen.
 - We are an in-school program, so you will need permission from the mentee’s parent/guardian for any contact outside of the school or over the summer!
- Reflect on you year together.
 - What did you learn from each other?
 - What were your favorite experiences together?
 - How does your mentee feel now compared to when you first met? How do YOU feel different?
- Don’t make any promises you might not be able to keep (e.g. that you will keep in touch).



Saying Goodbye

For Mentors Who Cannot Continue for Another School Year

This is a very important step that you must do to end your mentoring experience positively. Saying goodbye and expressing your thoughts and feelings about the end of the relationship is an opportunity for you to end your relationship in a healthy way. We encourage you to share your feelings as you are setting an example of your emotional competence, thus, providing a healthy model for sharing feelings around other losses in your mentee's life.

It is healthy to have a final, positive goodbye than to set up or promise unsustainable visits and communication that will lead to disappointment and can negatively impact the relationship. There are many residual effects of a healthy or unhealthy goodbye. An unhealthy goodbye can negate the positive memories and skills gained within the relationship. A healthy goodbye is a way to preserve the positive impacts of the relationship.

- Assuming you are no longer able to mentor because of time limitations, a move, illness, change in jobs, etc., ***make sure the mentee understands s/he is not the cause of you leaving.***
- Be honest and straightforward about why the mentor relationship is ending. Feel free to reach out for assistance to help you approach your mentee with this topic.
- Don't wait until the very last minute to say goodbye. Do this at least two months before your last meeting or as soon as you are aware the relationship will be ending.
- Let the mentee know things you like about them.
- Be positive and supportive, especially about what the future may hold for your mentee.
- Ask questions to allow your mentee to share their feelings while also sharing yours.
 - Ex: "We only have four visits left! I'm going to miss our visits. How are you feeling?"

Keep it positive!



End-Of-The-School-Year Activities with Your Mentee

We know it can be difficult to say goodbye. Sometimes, doing activities are a great way to aid in this process. We have a few ideas listed to help you wrap up the year with your mentee. These activities are simply to guide you and help stimulate create thinking. They are not mandatory activities. If none of the activities appeal to you, feel free to look up other ideas!

Ideas for wrapping up the year:

- Writing a personal reflection of the mentoring experience and sharing it with one another.
 - There reflections can include:
 - A thank you and show appreciation for the relationship.
 - A favorite memory of your time together.
 - What you noticed when you first met.
 - What you see in him/her today.
 - Your hopes for your mentee.
 - What you admire most about each other.
- Writing goodbye cards.
- Making a calendar or a picture of an hourglass that signifies the remaining meetings or creating a timeline in which the last meeting date is set.
- Making hand drawings, in which your hand is outlined next to your mentee's.
- Creating a memory box/book or scrapbook together. When you are finished, your mentee can have something to take home over the summer. This can include sticker, quotes, or anything that represents your time together.
- Doing their favorite activity together on the final outing.
- Exchanging a small gift/memento that will be meaningful to each person.
- Having your mentee create art based on what they accomplished this school year.
- Helping your mentee create new goals for next year.
- Having a meaningful conversation about your mentor relationship.
 - This is a great way to say goodbye if crafting something does not appeal to you. **The most important message is that s/he knows that you value the relationship and you both leave on a positive note.**
- Giving an age appropriate book to your mentee.
- Treating your mentee to his/her favorite food at your last visit and talk about the highlights of your year together. Please be sure to get the permission of the counselor and their guardian first!



Activities

1. Directions: Each of you begin with a writing utensil and a piece of paper. Divide the paper into three sections labeled:
 - 1) "One thing I learned is..."
 - 2) "I was surprised by..."
 - 3) "I will always remember..."

This can be completed using words and/or pictures and you can write how many things you wanted for each section. Once each of you has completed the paper, you can share them with one another.

2. Directions: As a mentor, you will talk about what gifts are, why we give gifts, and the different ways we give gifts to each other. We think of tangible things as gifts, but the gifts we give each other in mentor relationships are different. Gifts can include teaching discipline, listening, or being humorous

Each of you begin with a writing utensil and a piece of paper. Divide the paper into two sections with your name at the top on one side and your mentee's name at the top in the other side. You will start by writing something you believe your mentee has gifted you within your section (i.e. their humor). Your mentee will then read what you wrote and write something you have gifted them with.