



Volunteer Information

Reading is the skill by which students get information from books, computers, worksheets and boards to learn math, science, literature, social studies, and more. Over 85% of curriculum is taught through reading, making it the foundational skill for academic success. The first milestone in reading proficiency comes at the end of third grade because this is the point when students need to transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Only 36.6% of Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) 3rd-8th grade students achieved college- and career-ready reading proficiency scores on the 2021-2022 End-of-Grade tests. When looking at just 3rd graders, only 33% of CCS students achieved this critical milestone. Students not achieving this standard tend to struggle throughout their academic career as research has shown that 73% of these students never catch up and are 4-6 times more likely to drop out of school in comparison to proficient readers.

This is why the Cabarrus County Education Foundation (CCEF) and CCS are partnering to address this need. Our schools have made improvements but even with all of their efforts, more is still needed which is why CCEF is conducting this pilot program. Research has proven conclusively that tutoring and mentoring increases reading proficiency an extra 2-4 months at minimum.

We invite you to review the following volunteer information and profile to better understand this opportunity to invest in a student and to make a difference now that affects our community's very future!

To bring the program to full capacity, we will be using a staggered start adding one mentoring session at each school at a time to ensure a smooth transition for both students, schools and mentors. The exact start date for each session will be determined based on volunteer availability.

Please review the Striving Readers Mentoring Calendar and Mentoring Timeframes to exact commitment days.

Striving Readers Mentoring Calendar

Rocky River	Wolf Meadow
October 10, 2022 RRES Striving Readers Mentoring fall sessions begins	October 17, 2022 WMES Striving Readers Mentoring fall sessions begins
December 9, 2022 Striving Readers Mentoring Fall Session Ends	December 9, 2022 Striving Readers Mentoring Fall Session Ends
January 9, 2023 Striving Readers Mentoring spring sessions begin	January 9, 2023 Striving Readers Mentoring spring sessions begin
April 7, 2023 – April 14, 2023 No Striving Readers Mentoring Sessions (Spring Break)	March 27, 2023 – April 6, 2023 No Striving Readers Mentoring Sessions (Intercession)
May 12, 2023 Striving Readers Mentoring spring sessions end	April 7, 2023 – April 14, 2023 No Striving Readers Mentoring Sessions (Spring Break)
May 15, 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Event	May 12, 2023 Striving Readers Mentoring spring sessions end
	May 15, 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Event

MENTORING TIMEFRAMES

Grade	Rocky River	Wolf Meadow
1 st	11:10am – 11:40am 2:25pm – 2:55pm	9:25am – 9:55am
2 nd	10:35am – 11:05am	10:00am – 10:30am

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Responsibilities

- Be an ambassador for the importance of reading with your student and the community
- Meet with mentee student during the school day 1-2 times weekly according to your commitment. Typically, if two times a week, it is either a M/W or Tu/Th schedule but other considerations could be made to accommodate mentor schedules
- Build a relationship with your assigned student
- Complete prescribed relationship building and lesson plan with the student as assigned
- Provide feedback regularly to onsite Program Coordinator
- If working in partnership with another volunteer, please communicate any necessary updates
- Attend all required training sessions
- Communicate to Program Coordinator any conflicts with meeting your commitment

Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age and not currently in high school
- Must live or work in Cabarrus County or surrounding area
- Must be willing to travel to either Rocky River or Wolf Meadow Elementary Schools for the 2022-2023 school year
- Must pass Cabarrus County Schools' Volunteer Background Check
- Must attend an orientation/training session(s) which will be scheduled in late September or early October (dates TBA)
- Must commit to one or two volunteer sessions a week, when schools are in session, from Oct-May
- Must adhere to all health and safety protocols set by the school district

Expectations

- Provide complete information for your background check.
- Complete all training sessions. This may be a combination of in-person and virtual.
- Because you are playing such a critical role in supporting a student's academic development, we will ask you to sign a Volunteer Commitment Form. We do understand circumstances may change but ask for this formal commitment as having a consistent mentor is incredibly important for student success. A draft calendar follows.
- Commit to 30-minute sessions with your student to complete activities.
- Review lesson plan prior to mentoring session.
- Please arrive at the school early enough to check-in with the office and be in the assigned location at the start of the scheduled mentoring session. Timeframes for students' participation will be very precise and to ensure students receive full benefits from the sessions, they must start and end on time.
- Take an interest in your student and build a relationship with them.

Expectations (cont.)

- Provide at least a 24-hour notice to the Program Coordinator if you will not be able to attend a scheduled session. We realize a mentor might need to miss a session or two due to unforeseen circumstances, but we do ask you to try to honor your commitment for the sake of the students.
- Our Program Coordinators are here to support you. Be willing to ask questions and openly receive feedback from coordinators. The Program Coordinator will be monitoring mentoring sessions.
- Because you will be regularly meeting with your student, please communicate any concerns brought to you from the student to the Program Coordinator as soon as possible.
- Only visit your student during your assigned timeframe.

The Process to Volunteer

- Complete the Volunteer Application form at the following link: https://bit.ly/RM4S_Volunteer.
- You will receive a confirmation email acknowledging the receipt of your application and how to complete the CCS' Volunteer Background Process.
- After the background check is completed, the Program Coordinator will communicate your approval and provide information regarding volunteer training.
- Complete training module(s) and attend onsite orientation.
- Sign your Volunteer Commitment Form during the onsite orientation.

Time Commitment

- If volunteering 1 time per week, 45 – 60 minutes per week not including travel time.
- If volunteering 2 times per week, 1.5 – 2.0 hours per week not including travel time.