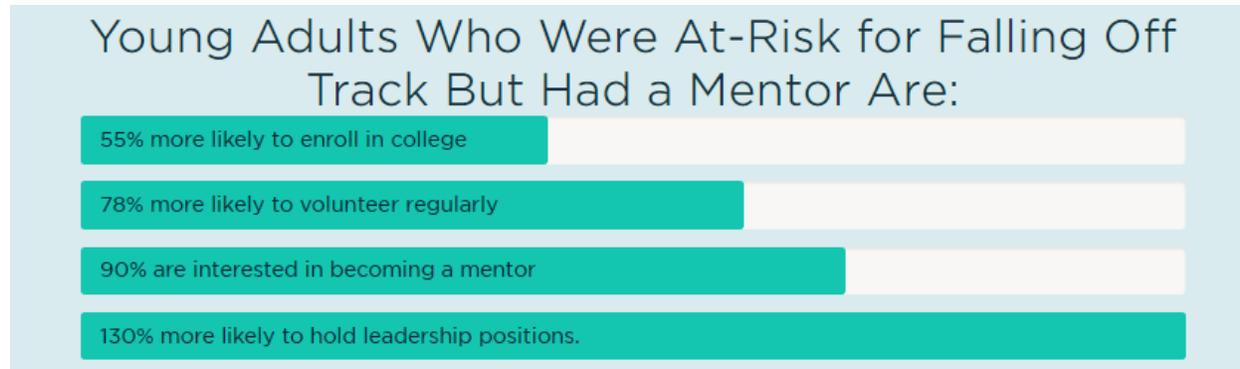


Why mentoring?

“Students today are more isolated, have fewer close friends and are drifting away from activities with personal interaction. This is creating a relational void in their lives. Add this to the growing levels of stress and pain teenagers already face as part of adolescence, and it is no wonder we are seeing an increase in teenage anxiety, depression, violence and self-injury. Teenagers are hurting more than ever before. Where is the hope? How can we make an impact in the lives of today’s lonely and hurting teenagers? Is there anything a caring adult can do? Is it possible the solution might be somewhere beyond technology’s reach? Could the answer be found in something as simple as a face-to-face meeting and good, old-fashioned, one-on-one interaction?”
Jonathan McKee, *Connect: Real Relationships in a World of Isolation.*



**from Mentoring.org*

What does a mentor do?

STRIVE Mentoring mentors are present. They engage. They care.

You may remember from history class the Battle at Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War. Debate surrounds who said it or if it was said at all, but lore tells us Israel Putnam or William Prescott instructed their line of troops garrisoned atop the hill to not fire until they could “see the whites of their eyes.” The notion was that by waiting until the target was close, the troops were more likely to achieve efficient success in accomplishing their mission.

STRIVE Mentoring is a “whites of their eyes” program. We are more likely to achieve efficient success in our mission of positively impacting individual students from our community to a life time of significance.

History has shown us that successful people grew up believing they were significant and had purpose. This mentoring program creates relationships where our students can feel and see their significance.

“Developing a sense of purpose is one of the most important but overlooked aspects of adolescent development.” Dr. William Damon, director of the Center on Adolescence at Stanford University

Hello Brent,

I did not get a chance to talk to you after the meeting today, but I wanted to thank you for all the effort you put into the strive program. As a student in the program I wanted to just comment on the fact that your commitment and enthusiasm for teaching young students like us really came through at every meeting. Your lessons and guest speakers taught me things I do not think I would be aware of had I not been in strive over the past two years. I have learned so much, from not only you but from the mentors who took time out of their day to come learn with us and teach us too. I am sad that this was the last meeting, but I can leave high school with the comfort that I have knowledge that most people my age do not have. Thank you again for every opportunity, life lesson, and motivational speech that you have given us. I will take it all with me as I go on to college, Sincerely, _____ Class 2018

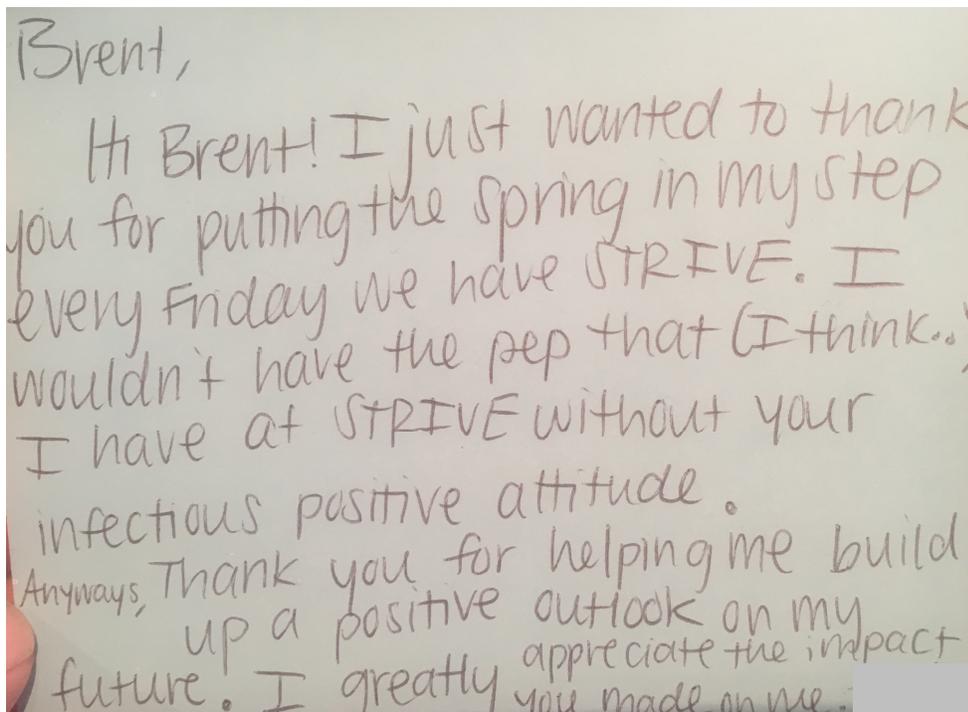
Mentor role description

Qualifications:

- Attend 75% of scheduled STRIVE Mentoring meetings
- While at mentoring meetings, engage students by facilitating discussion in small groups, actively listening and encouraging the students.
- Care. Mentors genuinely care for their students and want well for them, and they show it by how they interact, ask questions, make eye contact, nod as a sign of listening and seeking to understand.
- Up-to-date background check at the Stillwater School District--\$15 (STRIVE Mentoring Coordinator will start the process for you if you don't already have one. Stillwater Sunrise Rotary will the \$15 if it is a hardship or a point of contention for you).
- Up-to-date Rotary Youth Protection online training certificate—free. (STRIVE Mentoring Coordinator will begin that process for you).

The mentor's role is to care for and build into the students. It is my expectation that every student who comes to STRIVE Mentoring will have 2-3 adults who know his or her name and calls him or her by name when their paths cross inside and outside of STRIVE Mentoring meetings. Names are an important part of any person—but especially a teenager—feeling significant. As much as they would like to, the STRIVE Mentoring Coordinator will have a difficult time knowing all 50+ students' names, let alone match them with faces—even when nametags are worn consistently!

The STRIVE Mentoring Coordinator's role is to care for and invest in our mentors. STRIVE Mentoring should be as valuable for the mentors as it is the students and the way to ensure this is to focus the Coordinator's attention on structure and the mentors, empowering both to build into the lives and experience of the students.



Brent,
Hi Brent! I just wanted to thank you for putting the spring in my step every Friday we have STRIVE. I wouldn't have the pep that (I think...) I have at STRIVE without your infectious positive attitude. Anyways, Thank you for helping me build up a positive outlook on my future. I greatly appreciate the impact you made on me.