

What is STRIVE Mentoring?



STRIVE Mentoring is a program connecting Stillwater Area High School students with adults from the community who will **engage, encourage & challenge** them during these key years of their young life. Research shows that students who have trustworthy relationships with adults who are not their parents or teachers are beneficial in many ways: increases their self-worth, gains perspective of the world around them, and gives them a sense of opportunities for their future. Our experience is that through mentorship, students are inspired to excel.

STRIVE is an acronym: *Students Taking a Renewed Interest in the Value of Education*. STRIVE was originally designed—and is still true in many schools—to serve the students struggling the most academically. This was the focus of STRIVE at Stillwater Area High School for 13 years. But in 2015, we recognized that our impact was not what we hoped and were fortunate to begin a partnership with the AVID program, who was looking for mentors to engage with their students as part of their curriculum.

AVID is also an acronym, standing for *Advancement Via Individual Determination* and is an elective class led by educators who have been specially trained to prepare students for college, career and life. **This partnership between STRIVE Mentoring and AVID has produced a wonderful program for mentors, students, teachers or organizers alike.**

STRIVE Mentoring is a program of Rotary International—one of the leading service organizations for local business people. We have three Rotary Clubs that meet in and serve in the Stillwater School District boundaries. See me if you'd like to learn more about membership!

Vision	To engage with, encourage and challenge high school students in our community
Values	Trust. Authenticity. Perspective.
Strategy	Partner Rotarians and adults from the community to SAHS students.
Method	Be present. Be engaged. Care.
Results	Students who are Inspired, Motivated & Connected

To see a video of STRIVE Mentoring in action, visit the [STRIVE Mentoring webpage](#).

HOW does Stillwater STRIVE Mentoring work?



STRIVE Mentoring meets monthly at Stillwater Area High School. We have three separate STRIVE Mentoring periods:

-) Before school for any 9th-12th grade students recommended by their counselors, 7:10-7:35
-) 1st Period for 11th & 12th graders in AVID this period 7:40-8:33
-) 2nd Period for 11th & 12th graders in AVID this period 8:39-9:32

Mentors can volunteer for one, two or three of these periods.

Students and mentors are matched into a small group for the year. They sit together each meeting. All meetings will be led by the STRIVE Mentoring Coordinator, and students and mentors are provided resources and direction to help mentors and students engage in a way productive for the students.

Mentors are not tutors, but are instead partners, supporting the student by listening, sharing ideas, experiences, and offering encouragement. Students and mentors are matched into small groups with a target ratio of 2:5. This ratio allows mentors flexibility with work and other demands on their time; ensures there will be students from their group in school that day, and allows for quieter students to deflect the mentors attention if they'd like yet not hide and be anonymous

STRIVE Mentoring students are provided opportunities to volunteer with their mentor at various Rotary community service projects throughout the year. These events are fun for Rotarians, their families, and STRIVE students with their mentors.



Sample partial schedule