

# What is STRIVE Mentoring?



STRIVE Mentoring is a program connecting Stillwater Area High School students with adults from the community who will **engage** with and **encourage** 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 for teenagers 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 was started in the White Bear Lake Rotary Club in the late 1990's by Don Mooney.

<b>Vision</b>	To engage with, encourage and inspire high school students in our community
<b>Values</b>	Trust. Authenticity. Perspective.
<b>Strategy</b>	Partner Rotarians and adults from the community to AVID classes at SAHS.
<b>Method</b>	Be present. Be engaged. Care. (“Whites of their eyes”)

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

## HOW does STRIVE Mentoring work?

Two times a month during the school year, STRIVE Mentoring is the class plan for 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade AVID classes. Adult mentors—most of whom are Rotarians, but some are members of the local Rotary Clubs.

Mentors have an interest in seeing our high school students succeed in school and life. They are not tutors, but 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.

All meetings are led by the STRIVE Mentoring Coordinator in coordination with the AVID teachers. This mentoring coordinator volunteers their time and service as part of the local Rotary Club. Students and mentors are provided resources and direction for each meeting.



*Sample partial schedule*

<b>Fri, Sep 14</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Periods</b>	<b>Large Group</b>	<b>Get to know your mentor/students activities: Mentors share their story, Background, Family, Jobs, Activities, Students interview mentors</b>
<b>Fri, Sep 28</b>		<b>Small Groups</b>	<b>More Get to know you: Goals, Dreams, Purpose (write out 30 words of purpose)</b>
<b>Fri, Oct 12</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Periods</b>	<b>Large Group</b>	<b>Speaker— Mentor Speed “Dating”—mentors rotate groups to be interviewed by students.</b>
<b>Fri, Oct 26</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Periods</b>	<b>Small Groups</b>	<b>Discussion—would you rather and world view</b>
<b>Fri, Nov 9</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Periods</b>	<b>Large Group</b>	<b>Speaker—Adam Dince, Author “Hopeful to Hired”</b>
<b>Fri, Nov 30</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Periods</b>	<b>Small Groups</b>	<b>30 words of purpose. Small group discussion of what we heard from Adam Dince</b>
<b>Fri, Dec 14</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Periods</b>	<b>Large Group &amp; Small Group</b>	<b>Speaker-Brent: 4 Way Test &amp; Scholarship Introduction, Applying the 4 Way Test</b>