**Rotary Club of Ludington**

**STRIVE Program**

May 2022

**STRIVE History.** The Rotary Club of Ludington has run a successful STRIVE program for 25 years. A key element is our close connection with Ludington High School and the school's commitment to the program. Traditionally, the high school assistant principal is a Rotarian and serves as our connection with the school.

**Students.** The number of students varies by year (typically 6-12) depending on the number who qualify and commit to the program. High school seniors who have below a 2.0 cumulative GPA for their first three years of high school are eligible for STRIVE. They are at risk of not graduating, but still could graduate if they follow through with school work their senior year.

We will expand STRIVE in 2022-23 to include up to five sophomores, in addition to our traditional program for seniors as something we hear consistently from mentors is, "I wish I would have met my student earlier."

**Mentors.** The club's coordinators match students with mentors (typically club members), who meet with students once a week throughout the school year.

**Group Activities.** STRIVE includes group outings several times a year with all students, mentors, and coordinators. Examples include helping at a community garden, visiting the local community college, bowling, ice cream/lunch, tours of a community resource center, and more.

**Financial Incentives.** The club provides financial incentives after the first and second trimesters. The amount ($25, $50 or $100) is based on $25 each for GPA, participation in the program, and school attendance … plus an additional $25 for all three. We offer additional mini-incentives ($35 gas cards) periodically as well.

**Work Incentive.** Students may also receive a summer work incentive (up to $720/student). The summer work incentive requires the student to volunteer for two Rotary events. The student completes the volunteer events, brings us their pay stubs, and we cut the student a check for a match of up to $720.

**Scholarships.** For those who meet the year-end criteria - 2.0 GPA average for the first and second trimesters of their senior year, high attendance at school, and regular participation in STRIVE - we offer the potential to earn several scholarships. A local business has provided our top $1,500 scholarship and the club provides a $1,000 scholarship for 2nd place, $750 for 3rd and $500 for 4th. Plus, the senior with the highest GPA earns an extra $500. Winners of 1-4 are based on the improvement over freshman-junior year cumulative GPA. So, the highest senior GPA could be different than 1st place winner.

**Questions?** For additional information, contact STRIVE co-coordinators Dan Sleeman dansleeman@outlook.com or Patti Klevorn pattiklevorn@gmail.com.