**Rotary Club of Petoskey**

**STRIVE Program**

November 2022

**What is STRIVE?**

STRIVE is a unique opportunity for students to embark on a journey to improve their lives, expand their horizons, and develop a support network. The Petoskey Rotary Club has offered a STRIVE Program since the late 1990’s. It is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors at Petoskey High School who have been recommended by the school and have expressed a desire to improve their grades. Students meet with a member of our STRIVE Leadership Team to learn about the program and they can choose to apply or decline. STRIVE runs from October to May. The program has grown to include 20 high school students and 20 mentors.

**Mentors**

Rotarians and other community leaders volunteer to mentor these students (called ‘fellows’). A key part of STRIVE is the **one-on-one connection between each fellow and their mentor**. Mentors encourage fellows to achieve better academic performance, set goals, and reshape their educational experience. Mentors are encouraged to get together with their student monthly to do volunteer work, have coffee, or other activity.

**STRIVE Meetings**

M**onthly group meetings** are held from 5:30-7:00 PMfocused on interpersonal skills, team building, and career exploration. Meetings are held at different locations to expose fellows to a variety of businesses, government and nonprofit organizations. Past locations have included Crooked Tree Arts Center, McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital, Kilwin’s, Petoskey Department of Public Safety, and Stafford’s Perry Hotel.

**Student/Mentor PODS**

New this year, we have created student/mentor PODS - a group of 6-8 that can text, support, and hold each other more accountable to the STRIVE program. For example, if a mentor or a student cannot attend one of the meetings, the other mentors and students can cover the session and share what happened later.

**STRIVE Scholarships**

A celebratory banquet is held in May with parents invited to attend. Fellows receive **awards for school attendance, work ethic, overcoming challenges and, academic improvement.** A total of $3,500 in scholarships are awarded. The highest award given is one-year full tuition to North Central Michigan College (NCMC), courtesy of the NCMC Foundation.

**Questions?** Contact Georgia Abbott, STRIVE chair, email: abbottg80@gmail.com.