

Mentorship @ TDChristian High School:

A GUIDE for THE MENTOR



What do you most remember about high school? Did you learn more inside or outside of the classroom? What experiences best prepared you for your life after high school?

The Mentorship Program is a new initiative of TDChristian High School. It is designed:

- to connect each student with an adult in his/her potential career field or area of interest
- to facilitate experiential, “real world” learning
- to make student learning for future plans as rewarding as possible

Your role as a mentor is to be:

- A Resource:** Whom the student can contact for answers to questions, for advice, or just to talk. The student knows you are approachable and willing to listen. The student can get some direct experience in your career field.
- A Connection:** Who can provide contact to the career field the student hopes to enter. You are happy to provide feedback, point out opportunities, challenge, and maybe even write a reference letter.
- An Encourager:** Who offers support and encouragement. The student knows you care.
- A Listener:** Whom the student can contact when he/she needs to talk to someone other than parents, a teacher, or peers. The student feels comfortable talking to you.
- A Confidante:** Who can give confidential advice and opinions on many topics. In other words, the student can trust you and be frank and honest with you.

Qualifications of the mentor:

A mentor can be almost anyone; we hope to attract a broad range of mentors. The only formal qualifications are:

- The mentor commits to serving for at least the student's Grade 10 and 11 years.
- The mentor needs to be someone who affirms Christian values.
- The mentor needs to submit to a criminal reference check.
- The mentor should not be a family member of the student.

How does the Mentorship Program work?

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-The program starts in Grade 10 and continues through to Grade 11. In Grade 10, all students will find mentors with whom they would like to be matched up. This will primarily be someone who is in a career field that the student is interested in learning more about. The student will have you complete a MENTOR SUBMISSION FORM, which you are asked to return to the school. After the mentor has been approved, the student makes contact with the mentor to set up a first meeting.

-Next, the student and mentor would meet once over coffee or at the mentor's workplace to get better acquainted. Both parties would have a questionnaire/prompt questions to get the conversation going. This meeting should last ½ to 1 hour. The student would later write a report about his/her mentor and their meeting.

-The next year, in Grade 11, the student would initially spend one full day on a "job shadow" with his/her mentor. Once again, the student would have some questions that need answers, and would create a report on the job shadow day for the school.

-Next, the Grade 11 student would write a proposal for an independent project that is in some way connected to the student's mentor/area of interest/potential career field. This project would be approved by a panel of teachers but the student could customize the project to something he/she is really interested in learning about. For example, a student connected with a mentor who drives a transport truck could propose to create a video showing the average day in the life of the mentor. A student connected with a mentor who owns a store could create a website for the store. A student connected with a seamstress could create a new fashion collection. The possibilities are wide, and with every project, there is opportunity for the mentor to get involved in some shape or form.

-Later on, each Grade 11 student would have four consecutive days away from school to complete an independent project. These four days could be used to job shadow the mentor as well as work on the project.

-The final component would be the presentation of the project to the student's peers and teacher. The student would explain what their project was about, and then show the results. Each presentation should be approximately 10-15 minutes in length.

Formal Expectations of the Mentor:

Year:	Element:	Time Commitment for Mentor:
Grade 10	Student & mentor make initial contact. The mentor needs to fill out a MENTOR SUBMISSION FORM, and student and mentor set up a meeting.	Minimal; done by phone or email.
Grade 10	Student & mentor meet and get to know each other.	1 hour
Grade 11	Student job shadows his/her mentor	1 day
Grade 11	Student works on his/her independent project, this may include job shadowing.	Variable from very little to the maximum of 4 days of job shadowing; whatever is agreed upon between student and mentor.

Informal Hopes/ Expectations of the Mentor:

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- The mentor lets the student know availability to meet, or talk via phone or email.
- If there is time, the mentor makes oneself available to connect more often with the student.
- The mentor keeps informed of what is going on in the student's life.
- The mentor is willing to talk about things with the student that may not be directly related to his/her career field. While mentorship is not intended to be counselling, the mentor may find the student has other issues on his/her mind.
- The mentor informs the Mentorship Program coordinator of any concerns/issues with the student that needs to be addressed.
- The mentor continues to be a resource for the student in Grade 12 and beyond.

Support provided by the school:

- The school keeps you informed via phone or email about upcoming mentorship dates/responsibilities.
- The school gives you information sheets/ prompt questions to help facilitate your relationship with the student.
- The school gives you opportunity for feedback.
- The school promptly addresses any concerns/issues that may come up.

Conclusion:

The new Mentorship Program is an exciting, meaningful learning opportunity for the students of TDChristian High School. It is designed to be effective without requiring a large time commitment from you, the mentor. We know you will find it rewarding. You could have a tremendous impact on the life of one of our students.

We hope that you consider becoming a mentor. After all, don't you wish they had this when you were in high school?



To become a mentor, send an email to mentorship@tdchristian.ca with your name and phone number and we will contact you.