

Mentorship @ TDChristian High School

A STUDENT GUIDE



What's in it for me?

As a school, we want you to leave TDChristian with every advantage for you to figure out your future and God's plan for your life. The new Mentorship Program is designed:

- to connect you with an adult in your potential career field or area of interest
- to give you "real world" experience, outside of the classroom.
- to make learning about your future plans as rewarding as possible

All grade 10 students will have a mentor.

How does the Mentorship Program work?

The Mentorship Program has a formal side and an informal side. The formal side includes specific requirements/assignments you must complete for the school. (SEE PAGE TWO)

The informal side is the relationship between you and your mentor. The two of you arrange when and how often you will meet and how you will communicate most effectively.

Remember, from advice to opportunities, from connections to a listening ear, your mentor has a lot to offer!

How do I get started?

The first thing you need to do is narrow down what kind of potential career or area of interest you want to discover more about. Each Grade 10 student has already started this process as part of Career Studies.

After that, it's time to find a mentor in that area with whom you will connect. This mentor will need to be approved by the school. Note that it is up to YOU to find a mentor, but the school will ASSIST you, if necessary.

What do I look for in a mentor?

You want to find someone who:

- has expertise in the area of your interest
- is willing to commit the time and energy to mentor
- is willing to work with a high school student
- is willing to submit to a criminal reference check
- is someone who affirms Christian values
- is not a family member.

We have a package you can give to a potential mentor that describes his/her responsibilities.

Your mentor acts as:

- A Resource: The mentor is someone you can contact to ask questions, get advice, and talk to. Your mentor is approachable and willing to listen. Through your mentor, you can get some direct experience in your potential career field.
- A Connection: Your mentor is a connection to the career field you hope to enter. Your mentor provides you with feedback, points out opportunities, challenges you, and maybe even writes you a reference letter.
- An Encourager: Your mentor encourages you and supports you. Your mentor cares about you.
- A Listener: You can contact your mentor when you need to talk to someone other than your parents, a teacher, or peers. You feel comfortable talking to your mentor.
- A Confidante: Your mentor can give his/her opinion on many topics and he/she will keep it confidential. In other words, you can trust him/her and your mentor will be honest with you.

This will be covered more extensively in Career Studies.

The formal parts of the Mentorship Program include:

In Grade 10:

Step 1: Know this package well, and identify potential mentors with your teacher.

Step 2: Pick a mentor and submit the MENTOR SUBMISSION FORM to your teacher on or before April 19th, 2010.

Step 3: On or before Project Day 4, you will meet with your mentor for the first time, either over coffee or at the mentor's place of business. You will have questions that you need to ask to your mentor. This is a meeting for the two of you to get better acquainted, and should last ½ - 1 hour.

Step 3: You will write a report on your mentor and your meeting and hand this in to your teacher.

Next year, in Grade 11:

THE JOB SHADOW: You will spend a day away from school job shadowing your mentor (most likely on a project day). You will then write a report on your day. More details will follow.

THE INDEPENDENT PROJECT: The next step will be for you to propose to the school an

independent project on something you want to learn about regarding your potential career field or area of interest. It is the hope that you will include your mentor somewhere in your project, either as a resource or as the subject of your project. The project is not tied to any specific class so you have lots of flexibility in choosing the focus of the project. Make sure you pick something that really interests you.

Here are a few examples of projects you could propose:

- A "Day in the Life" video of what your mentor does in his/her job.
- A new marketing campaign for your mentor's store.
- A presentation covering all the aspects of your mentor's business.
- A website for your mentor's small business.
- A presentation on issues/opportunities/challenges surrounding your mentor's field.
- A presentation on the history of your mentor's profession.
- A project idea that really piques your interest.

The final component of your independent project is presenting it to your teacher and fellow students. This presentation should last *15 minutes*, plus time for questions. Your 15 minute presentation could include a Power Point presentation, video, a report, a display, interactive elements and anything else to make it compelling as well as informative. You will be given more specific details about the requirements of this project in Grade 11.

How much time will I have to work on my independent project, and when is it due?

If you are going on the Grade 11 Service Trip in Semester One, you will do the mentoring projects in Semester Two. If you are NOT going on the Grade 11 Service Trip in Semester One, you will do the mentoring projects in Semester One.

You will complete your independent project on your own time, but you will be given school days off to work on it.

So, let's imagine you are a Grade 11 student who is NOT going on the Grade 11 Service Trip in Semester One:

Early September-	Job shadow your mentor for a day and write a report.
Early October-	Independent Project Proposal is submitted and approved.
Days 1-4 of Service Week-	These are Independent Project Days for you to work.
Day 5 of Service Week-	Project Presentation Day

Conclusion:

The new Mentorship Program is an exciting, meaningful learning opportunity for you. It is designed to be effective without requiring a large time commitment from your mentor. The hope of the program is that your mentor will become a significant and positive influence on your life and help you figure out what God is calling you to do after high school.

