



May 8, 2017

Dear Mentors:

The last full week of school is upon us.....can you believe it?? This also means this is the last week to visit our mentees at St. Joe, YES, YMS, and YHS. Thank you for your commitment to meeting with your mentee weekly, it means so much to them! Be sure to make time to relax and enjoy your summer!

We wanted to share with you a few of the mentees' responses to the question "If you had to describe TeamMates to another kid who didn't know anything about it, what would you say TeamMates is?"

- It's a great learning and expanding program and it helps you grow and develop as an individual when you have an adult you can trust and who supports you along the way.
- It's a life changing person that really affects your life and is always there for you. They see you every week and sometimes will even bring you lunch. They are like a really good positive role model in your life.
- I would say TeamMates is a program that matches you with someone from the community with similar interests to you. This person is a mentor that you can talk to, ask questions, and be comfortable around. It is a way to make a lifelong friendship.
- A mentor is basically like a living journal, they have experience under their belt and they can help you decide what you should do in a certain situation
- It's a fun time to spend with an older adult, you get to know them, they become a good friend, you bond together, and it's a great experience.

Coordinator's Corner –

As the school year comes to a close, you may be wondering if it's possible to stay in contact with your mentee over the summer. While TeamMates is a school-based mentoring program that only meets during the school year, you can stay in touch by becoming pen pals with your mentee. Letters are becoming a lost art form so this can be a fun way to keep in touch. Helping kids understand the process of writing and sending letters can be a great learning opportunity. Because we don't have permission to share home addresses, I will be happy to serve as your postmaster! Address your letter to your mentee in care of Deanne Erickson at the YPS District Office, and I will take care of the rest.

Deanne Erickson, Program Coordinator
deanneerickson@hotmail.com
712-490-3534

Gayla Knight, Asst Program Coordinator
gayla.knight@yorkdukes.org
402-366-1097