



LUNCH BUDDIES

Mentoring kids at Houston School

Purpose: Provide positive role models who will invest in the lives of Houston School students

Commitment:

1 on 1 Buddy relationships

12 weeks, every Thursday (Sept. 3-Nov. 5, Dec. 3 & 10)

Training: Thursday, September 3rd, 11:45am-12:45pm at Houston School

1 Hour during lunch from 11:45am-12:45pm at Houston School

1 Field Trip on with mentors' and kids' families, Monday, Oct. 5th 6-8pm



Questions & Answers:

Why are we doing a Buddy Program? All kids need positive adults in their lives that care about them. Some kids at Houston School have wonderful adults at home that care about them and love them and some do not. This program is designed to not only provide caring adults for kids that don't have them at home but also to provide all kids with a window into a world that is different than their neighborhood. Many of these kids live in poverty and have few examples of anyone that has ever graduated from high school, gone to college, has a career, owns a home, has traveled further than Fresno or has ever been to Disneyland. If you have ever done any of these things, you can help provide a window to another world for these kids.

Who can be a Buddy? Any attenders of Neighborhood Church or parents of Houston School students that are over 16 years of age that apply, pass the background check and are approved, can be Buddies.

Who will I be mentoring? You will be paired with a 5th or 6th grade student at Houston School. Students are nominated by their teachers for various reasons- some have difficult home lives, others need encouragement in school and others just need a friend.

Any questions, please contact Stephanie Bartsch (732-9107, stephanie@ncvisalia.com)

What will we do during buddy time? The students will bring their lunch into the classroom and buddies are encouraged to bring sack lunches as well to eat with the kids. You will have a chance to eat with your kids and then we will play some sort of game every week to help you get to know your buddy even better. Past game examples are below. . . Each week will be a different game.

Week 1: Guess Who? Game- Buddies try to guess each other's favorite things (color, food, sport, activities, cartoon movie, etc.)

Week 2: Interview Day- Buddies interview each other to find out about their lives to discover what they have in common and what is different.

Week 3: Family Pictionary- Buddies close their eyes and draw a picture of their family/people that live in their house- open eyes (laugh) and describe their drawing and their family.

Week 4: Are You Smarter than a 4th Grader?- kids compete with their buddies to see who knows 4th grade academic standards- afterward talk about what they like at school, what they are good at, grades and goals, etc.

Week 5: College/Career Challenge- Buddies work as a team to name as many colleges and different types of careers as they can in 2 minutes, award prizes and then let adults ask kids what they want to be when they grow up.

Week 6: Holiday Traditions Game- Buddies share about their family's holiday traditions (questionnaire provided).

Week 7: Photo Day- Buddies take pictures together and make frames for each other to remember their buddies.

Week 8: Party- last day pizza party, give photos and frames to buddies, say goodbye

Will there be training? Yes! There will be a required training before we start our Lunch Buddies program. The training will include tips on good mentoring, ways to engage kids, appropriate and inappropriate conversations, rules for religion in schools, reporting child abuse, understanding poverty, cross-cultural understanding, background checks and all the details for the program (where to park, dates and times, etc.).

What is the Field Trip? The Field Trip is a day where you will get to bond with your buddies, meet their families, introduce the kids to your family/friends, and get to expose them to a new experience that they normally wouldn't get to do. A special outing like this is amazingly valuable for kids and their families because they rarely travel outside of their own neighborhood. To be exposed to new people and places and see a different life is one of the major goals of the program.

What if I can't make it one week? If a Buddy can't make it one week, the kid will partner up with another buddy and student and if possible, the missing buddy should write a letter to the kid to let them know you are still thinking about them and care for them.

Any questions, please contact Stephanie Bartsch (732-9107, stephanie@ncvisalia.com)

Neighborhood Church Lunch Buddies Volunteer Application

1. Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Cell) _____ (Home) _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Birth date: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

If you have children please list their names and ages:

2. How long have you attended Neighborhood Church? _____

3. Why are you interested in becoming a Buddies Mentor?

4. Do you have any previous experience working with children? If so, please list your experiences with dates and responsibilities.

5. What ministries at Neighborhood Church are you currently involved in?

6. Is there anything that would be helpful for us to know about your certain skills, hobbies, likes, dislikes, etc. that might be helpful in matching you with a child?

7. (a) Have you been convicted of a felony in the last 7 years?

Yes No

(b) Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense that would include the sale or use of drugs, child abuse, or a crime involving actual or attempted sexual molestation of a minor?

Yes No

If yes on (a) or (b) please explain.

8. Are you willing to undergo a background check and give consent to being finger printed?

Yes No

9. List the names and addresses of two people (no family relation), who know you personally and have a definite knowledge of your character. (These people may be sent a reference questionnaire or called)

Name: _____

Address/City/State: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address/City/State: _____

Phone: _____

Applicant's Statement

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____