

Gonzales Independent School District

GROWING GREATNESS: #GONZALESNOW!

VOLUNTEER

&

MENTOR

HANDBOOK

Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.

G. K. Chesterson

Thank you to Volunteers & Mentors

Dear Volunteer,

Gonzales ISD has been so fortunate to have volunteers from varied experiences and backgrounds. Anyone can be a volunteer. We have volunteers who are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, and retired teachers. We also have a strong organization, business and community stake in our volunteer programs. On behalf of Gonzales ISD I would like to say THANK YOU! Gonzales ISD appreciates the continued effort and time that each of you continue to give GISD students. A special welcome is also extended to those of you who have an interest in volunteering.

We can say that the biggest reward this community and GISD children will receive from your volunteerism is the example of a role model giving back to their community. Your commitment and positive leadership are and continue to be a valued gift that inspires others to volunteer for children.

Thank you again for your commitment to the children and community of Gonzales ISD.

"Let us never be betrayed into saying we have finished our education; because that would mean we had stopped growing". Julia H. Gulliver.

Gonzales ISD-Board of Trustees

Ross Hendershot,III ---President

Justin Schwausch ----Vice President

Sue Gottwald---Secretary

Glenn Menking---Member

Gloria Torres---Member

Josie Smith-Wright---Member

Sandra Gordon---Member

Take action. Pledge to become a volunteer.

GONZALES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CAMPUSES

Gonzales High School Campus

9th to 12th grade
1800 North Sarah Dewitt Drive
P O Box M
Gonzales Texas 78629
Principal: Jon Basha
Phone# 830-672-7535

Gonzales Jr High Campus

6th to 8th grade
426 St.Lawrence
P O Box N
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Principal: Karen Perez
Phone# 830-672-8641

Gonzales North Avenue Elementary School

3rd to 5th grade
1032 Saint Joseph
P O Box 1939
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Principal: Vanessa Gibson
Phone# 830-672-9557

Gonzales Elementary Campus

Kindergarten to 2nd grade
1600 Saint Andrew
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Principal: Nicole Nerada
Phone# 830-672-1467

Gonzales Primary Academy

Early Childhood to Pre-K
222 St. Joseph
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Principal: Dr. Ariana Hernandez
Phone# 830-672-4110

Benefits of Volunteering & Mentoring

Pupils can benefit from the support offered by an extra adult. Volunteering and Mentoring is a gift. To help a child understand, lend a hand, or just offer a listening ear, volunteering/mentoring is a way to give the wonderful gift of your time to enrich a life. Volunteering/Mentoring offers a glimpse into the life of public education thereby increasing opportunities. Increased understanding increases parents abilities to support children at home and community members to support children throughout the community.

Volunteering & Mentoring results in SUCCESS!

Students

Self Esteem

Anger Management/Control of Emotions

Future Planning/Dreams

Academic Success

Districts

Higher Performance

Academic Achievement

Increase Completion Rates

Communities

Strong Families

Succeeds in the workforce

Community Success



Research has proven that caring adults help our children achieve achievement and plan for a bright and successful future.

CAN YOU BECOME A VOLUNTEER/MENTOR? **YES**

Anyone that cares about children, education and their community is a potential volunteer/mentor. Anyone with a talent to share and time to give is a potential volunteer/mentor.

Each volunteer/mentor has something different to share in talent or skill. Some volunteers/mentors can work directly with the student; others may perform a certain support of service. Whatever it may be our students will learn and benefit from the support offered by either one!



Volunteer/Mentor Opportunities

1. **Join district committees/Attend Meetings.** Be a part of a district level committee providing input, advisory and expertise in moving the district forward in attaining goals. Attending meetings held at the school or at the district level can open doors to volunteer opportunities by learning what is current in school, what support is needed and how to help.
2. **Support extracurricular activities.** Consider the activities outside of the classroom that your child participates in and offer to lend a hand. Organizations such as Band Boosters and Athletic Boosters support students with financial contributions that assist with such things as materials, travel and awards.
3. **Landscape assistance.** Work with the campus leadership to support planting trees or flowers in an area that needs beautification.
4. **Assist with technology.** Use your technology skills to assist with data input, program acquisition and/or tech tutorials.
5. **Assist with reading/math, crafts or science.** There are so many opportunities for small group intervention. If you love to read, is an ace at math or just love science offer your expertise for small group help for student tutoring.
6. **Volunteer to help with Career Exploration activities:** Students require exposure to jobs and the market in their community and beyond. Volunteer to assist with tours, career days and field trips.
7. **Help in the library.** We can always use help re-shelving books, checking out books and organizing in the library. This type of help gives our librarian and aide more time to work with students.
8. **Become a Mentor.** Be the consistent role model that shows a student you care about them and what they do in school. Check into the mentor program.

Where do I begin?

1. Check in at Central Office and request the application for background/fingerprint check as required by law. Turn the application in to the Superintendents Secretary at Central Office.
2. Upon clearance you will be contacted to come by Central Office for a photo to be included with your I.D. Badge.
3. Consider your interest. Once you have your I.D. a meeting will be scheduled with Community & Student Services Dept.
4. You will then connect with the campus principal based on your decision. Once determination of your availability is determined, you will begin.



Contact Persons for Volunteer/Mentor Programs:

District –Wanda Fryer

Email: wanda.fryer@gonzalesisd.net

Phone Contact: 830-672-9551

District—Lucy Pena

Email: lucy.pena@gonzalesisd.net

Phone Contact: 830-672-9551

Volunteer/Mentor Guidelines and Responsibility:

Be Reliable

When you become a volunteer or mentor many people will depend on you. It is important to make a commitment and be consistent in the role. If an unforeseen occurrence will keep you away, we ask that the campus or department contact is notified.

Be Positive

All volunteers and mentors are role models. All interactions must be professional and courteous at all times. Volunteers and mentors greatly assist the public school employee. Please work with courtesy under the direction of the campus official and within the rules of the district and campus.

Confidentiality

You will meet with professionals for question or direction needs as well as suggestions in the course of the project or the year of service. Share matters of concern with the campus principal if clarification is necessary. Always work with discretion and trustworthiness when handling confidential information. Discuss students only with assigned teacher or campus principal. You are responsible for maintaining complete confidentiality at all times in regards to students, staff and/or other volunteers and mentors.

All Volunteer/Mentor workers will be required to sign a confidentiality statement.

Safety

ALL volunteer/mentor applicants will be subject to a back ground check each year. Additionally, all volunteers/mentors are expected to sign in and out of the campus or department. Identification badges must be worn at all times.

Service Hours

Volunteer/Mentor hours assist in qualifying the district for grants in some situations. Additionally, the data assist in meeting district/campus recognition and awards, and provides meaningful data regarding parent, business, and organization and community involvement goals.

Volunteers/Mentors:

Encourage

Build self esteem

Understands child's point of view

Commits

Builds trust and rapport

Includes teacher with concerns

Has concern for teacher's time

Make a Difference!

Volunteers do not:

Discipline students

Access confidential student records or files

Assess or diagnose student needs

Share student progress and/or behavior with anyone other than the teacher

Confidentiality and Commitment Guidelines

It is important to understand the following guidelines when working with students and school information

Please read carefully and then sign giving your Pledge to confidentiality.

Statement of Confidentiality

Volunteers must ensure confidentiality and privacy in regard to student, staff or other information and discussions about the individual, progress or families that we serve. Any and all information pertinent to an individual's progress, behavior or personal advancement or intervention must be kept private and confidential. Any disclosure must be shared with the classroom teacher and/or the principal or designee. Volunteers shall not disclose any information about a person to anyone outside of this organization in writing, by phone or by verbal discussion unless authorized by the principal or designee as it relates to legal statute. The principle of confidentiality shall be maintained in all activities, on all campuses, and departments.

Volunteers will not discuss any individual's record(s) with unauthorized individuals, whether on or off duty.

Pursuant to board policy on confidentiality related to students and staff, I pledge to act professionally and honorably at all times while in the service of the Gonzales ISD district, campus or department of Gonzales ISD. My pledge includes a commitment to the above statement.

Volunteer

Principal/Director/Designee