

FAQs

NMC / Blair Mentor Partnership

Q. How do I become an NMC Mentor?

A. If you are interested in becoming an NMC mentor, or would simply like more information, the first step is to complete this [mentor interest form](#). Then, monitor your NMC email because we will reach out to you soon!

Q. Are mentor/mentee matches random?

A. No. Both mentors and mentees (4th and 5th graders) fill out the interest to gather info about likes/interests and hobbies. We will do our best to pair you with a student who has similar interests as you.

Q. When do mentoring sessions happen?

A. That's up to the mentor! There are several times throughout the school day that work well for the 4th and 5th graders for their mentoring session. The mentor will choose a day/time of the week that works in their schedule and this will be communicated with the mentee.

Q. Is the mentoring commitment for one semester or the full year?

A. Our mentoring sessions go from early October through the beginning of May. We ask that mentors commit to both the fall and spring semesters so they have time to build a relationship with their mentee. However, if mentors are not able to commit to the full school year, we encourage them to reach out to Bridget Munroe (bmunroe@nmc.edu) to let her know. We typically recruit a small group of mentors in January to step in for mentors who weren't able to continue for the 2nd half of the year.

Q. What if I have to miss a mentoring session?

A. No worries! Just let Emily Witte know by texting her as soon as possible so she can notify your mentee. You can communicate with Emily to reschedule for another time that same week if you would like to.

Q. Can I still be a mentor if I don't have transportation to Blair Elementary?

A. Yes! We will set up car pools for students who don't have a car accessible to them. If funds are available, NMC students who are able to drive to Blair Elementary will receive gas cards to put toward travel expenses.

Q. What do mentors do with their mentee during mentoring sessions?

A. It depends on the mentor and mentee's interests. Common activities include reading, playing games, making crafts, and doing puzzles. However, some mentees just want to talk and love having an adult who has the dedicated time to listen!

Q. What is Leadership Academy?

A. Leadership Academy is a monthly session to teach the 5th graders skills related to leadership. During Leadership Academy sessions, students learn about a leadership topic and participate in hands-on activities. NMC mentors serve as program hosts and/or helpers. Helpers sit at a table with a small group of 5th graders to give instructions and lend a hand.

Q. Is there a option for mentors to continue meeting with their mentee after the school year ends?

A. We partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Northern Michigan to connect mentors with other resources for mentoring after the school year is finished. Sometimes there is the opportunity for mentors to continue meeting with their Blair Elementary mentee through BBBS as a community mentor.