

The School Year Ahead



Wellington High School
and Summit Learning

Mentorship is a key component of the Summit Learning experience. This week's edition of the Insider will help you understand the role of a mentor, why it is critical to a student's education, and how you can work with your student's mentor.

Student Experience

What does mentor time look like for your child?

We know that all families want their children to be truly known and cared for by the adults at their school. In the Summit Learning Program, all students are paired with a mentor who acts as their advocate both inside and outside of the classroom. A mentor can be a teacher, a school leader, or other administrator at your child's school. They meet with your student one-on-one regularly to support them in making progress towards their own personal goals.

Mentors play several roles. They stay up-to-date with a student's progress across all classes and will support your student through personal and academic challenges. Mentors also help students set both long-term and short-term goals and coach them through their progress.

Getting Involved

Your child's mentor can become a liaison between the school community and your family. Reach out to your child's mentor regularly to find out how you can best support them.

Mentors will be keen to hear all about your student - their personality, their goals and aspirations, life outside of school that could have an impact on life inside the classroom, and more. Together, you can work with your student to set long- and short-term goals and help support them in their journey toward leading a fulfilled life.

BONUS: [Hear from a student](#) about the impact her mentor has had on her life.

The Mentor Relationship

Mentorship in middle and high school has the power to impact the course of students' academic and personal life trajectories. This video shows the power of a mentor relationship, and how it enables teachers to reach all students and develop a deep connection. For more information on mentoring, check out this [Summit Learning blog](#).



FAQs

Q: What happens during my student's check-in with their mentor?

A: Mentors build agendas for their check-ins with each mentee, and they share these in the Summit Learning Platform so students can prepare what they want to talk about. Agendas often include a discussion on ongoing projects and your student's progress in class. The check-in is also an opportunity for your child to discuss both academic and personal challenges and brainstorm ways to resolve them.

THE SCIENCE OF SUMMIT

Part Three: Why Habits of Success are Important

Habits of Success are the social and emotional skills such as resilience, social awareness, a sense of belonging and more, that support a student's academic and non-academic pursuits. Through Summit Learning, social-emotional learning is integrated into all aspects of school culture. Via weekly one-on-one mentoring, self-directed learning and project-based learning, teachers guide students as they develop Habits of Success.

What the research says about Habits of Success: Learning scientists have found that students need Habits of Success — a set of skills, mindsets, dispositions, and behaviors — to succeed in college and life. Development of habits, which occurs on a continuum over time, is most effective when integrated into the social learning environment of a classroom (Farrington, 2012; Stafford-Brizard, 2016; AIR, 2017).

What it looks like in the classroom: Summit Learning has been designed to foster the development of Habits of Success in all aspects of the school day, in all subjects and across all grades. The curriculum fosters the development of Habits of Success in all subjects, across all grades. For example:

- Students have weekly 1:1 mentor meetings to set short- and long-term goals and reflect on their progress over the week.
- Students also meet in peer groups to work on positive identity formation and talk about the habits.
- Teachers also receive training to help students build Habits of Success.
- Students also participate in family meetings to set goals for growth, and so that educators can better understand how to tailor habits to students' cultures and contexts.

Summit Learning adopted educational psychologist K. Brooke Stafford-Brizard's Framework: Building Blocks for Learning. It outlines 16 key social-emotional learning skills for comprehensive student development. Each skill, which we define as a Habit of Success, draws on its own deep literature and evidence base. If you would like to learn more, you can download the Science of Summit white paper [here](#).

THE 16 HABITS OF SUCCESS

