



## CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS NORTH STAR READING PARTNERS INITIATIVE

### *Encourage, Challenge, Support and Celebrate*

Mentors working with 12<sup>th</sup> grade students may use the following information as a tool for guiding conversations with potential high school graduates. The goal is that each senior will graduate from high school with a clear plan aligned to their postsecondary goals. Whether the student is headed toward college, career and/or military enlistment, the mentor will **encourage, challenge, support and celebrate** students as they progress toward graduation. Thank you in advance for your efforts in ensuring that CMS graduates are future ready!

### *General Guidelines*

CMS has outlined procedures for mentors as found on the district's website. It is imperative that all mentors read this information as it contains important tips and guidelines:

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/vp/Pages/MentoringTips.aspx/>

During your sessions with students, sensitive topics may arise (e.g., child abuse, suicidal ideation or homelessness). A member of the school's Student Services team (i.e., counselor, psychologist or social worker) should be contacted immediately. If the student is expressing suicidal ideation, the student must never be left alone. Please escort the student to a member of the school's Student Services team immediately.

Because of the high stakes associated with the senior year (e.g., graduation and postsecondary planning), it is imperative that the mentor collaborate with the student's counselor. The counselor is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the student meets graduation requirements and completes steps for their specific postsecondary plans. Extreme caution is to be used in advising students in these areas.

This timeline is intended to guide your conversations with your mentee. Understand that disclosures during any given session may alter your focus during that session or during subsequent sessions. You may exercise flexibility in how you proceed through these talking points, but there are key topics included that are beneficial for you to address so that your student has a successful senior year. Though some items are listed only once, the recommendation is that these topics be revisited on an ongoing basis. Examples include periodically checking grades and attendance in PowerSchool or getting status updates regarding progress toward postsecondary plans.

## **Guided Conversations: November**

### **WEEK 11: November 2 – 6**

- ✓ November 5 – Report cards distributed
- ✓ November 5 – Deadline to register for the December 5<sup>th</sup> SAT
- ✓ November 6 – Deadline to register for the December 12<sup>th</sup> ACT
- ✓ November 7 – SAT administration (October 9<sup>th</sup> registration deadline)
- ✓ Continue to encourage your student's use of an agenda, calendar or other organizational tool to record and monitor pertinent dates and deadlines. Questions to ask: Are there any major projects or deadlines that you have before the Winter Break? For college or scholarship applications, ACT/SAT, or the CMS Graduation Project? If so, have you recorded these items and deadlines in your organizational tool? If the student has not, support them in recording key dates that will be significant in upcoming weeks.
- ✓ Encourage your student to participate in North Carolina College Application Week during which the goal is to provide each graduating high school senior the opportunity to apply to colleges online through CFNC ([www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)). Students may apply to two-year and four-year institutions, several of which will waive the application fee during this week. Have the student check with their school counselor for additional information.
- ✓ Once report cards are distributed on November 5<sup>th</sup>, discuss any areas of academic concern with your student, making recommendations for areas that may need improvement. Celebrate success as the student works toward fulfilling graduation requirements.

### **WEEK 12: November 9 – 13**

- ✓ November 11 – Veterans Day Holiday
- ✓ Discuss the selected text that you and your senior are reading together. Questions to ask: What did you like or not like about it? Identify those parts of the text that you did not fully understand. What are the key themes in the text? What do you think the author was trying to convey? With what character could you most identify? Determine with your student which chapters or sections you will read by the next agreed upon date.
- ✓ Review the student's course syllabi and discuss any major assignments or projects that may be due in upcoming weeks. This would be a good time to discuss the CMS Graduation Project with any student who is preparing for the presentation that will take place by the end of the first semester. The CMS Graduation Project is a graduation requirement for all students. Additional information about the project may be found at <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/ci/grad-project/Pages/default.aspx>.
- ✓ If your student is preparing for the Senior Exit Presentation before the end of the first semester, ask how you might be able to support the student in their preparation. Is assistance needed with the draft of the speech? Would the opportunity to present to you be helpful for practice? Provide constructive feedback and continue to encourage your student's efforts in this process.

### **WEEK 13: November 16 – 20**

- ✓ Encourage your student to consider participation in a community service or outreach effort. Many clubs and organizations will sponsor activities, especially with the holidays drawing near. Ask your student if they have an interest or a desire for service in a particular area, and then assist them in exploring opportunities that they may create or support as an outlet for service. You might also invite them to participate in efforts of which you might be a part.
- ✓ If your student is working on the CMS Graduation Project, continue to discuss their progress. Have them identify challenges they are experiencing. November may be a critical month for working on the project, depending upon when items are due and presentations are scheduled.

- ✓ Have your student log in to PowerSchool and provide you with an update on grades and attendance. Consistent monitoring will assist the student in assessing their progress toward academic goals and provide you with additional information regarding how you may best support your student. If there are areas of concern, encourage your student to seek resources and assistance from their teachers and/or assigned counselor.

**WEEK 14: November 23 – 27**

- ✓ November 25-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- ✓ Now that the second quarter is well underway and the Winter Break is quickly approaching, remind your student of how swiftly the semester is moving along. Inform your student that after the Thanksgiving Break you will be discussing a plan for managing expectations for the end of the first semester. Upcoming weeks will pass quickly, and there are generally many tasks that need to be addressed as the semester comes to a close. Examples include final exam preparation, college and scholarship application deadlines, recovery, and managing extracurricular activities. Remind your student that you are available for assistance as they make continued progress toward graduation and postsecondary goals. This week would also be a great time to encourage and celebrate your student with your reflections of the positive choices you have observed since the beginning of the school year.