



CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS NORTH STAR READING PARTNERS INITIATIVE

Encourage, Challenge, Support and Celebrate

Mentors working with 12th 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: October

WEEK 7: October 5 – 9

- ✓ October 7 – Early Release Day
- ✓ October 9 – Deadline to register for the November 7th SAT administration
- ✓ As your student continues to research information about college and scholarship opportunities, encourage their attendance at the Fall 2015 CACRAO College Fair which will be held on Thursday, October 8th. Students will be able to meet admissions representatives from a variety of postsecondary institutions. The event will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ Encourage your student to stay or become involved in school- or community-based activities. Extracurricular activities may allow students to explore a particular area of interest or have an outlet for community service. In this case it is the quality of involvement, and not the quantity, that is of utmost significance. Questions to ask: Have you joined any clubs this school year? Are there areas of community service or volunteering that are of interest to you?
- ✓ If your student is interested in exploring career and job outlook information, you may have the student consult with the Career Development Coordinator (CDC) on campus. CDCs have a wealth of information that will assist the student in examining options and skill sets that might be beneficial in the respective career clusters. Questions to ask: What is your career focus at this time? Have you researched the job outlook for your area of interest? What is the demand for the job? What education is needed? What intended major(s) should be considered for this type of work? The Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/ooh/) is an excellent resource for this information.
- ✓ Recommend that a professional e-mail address is used for communicating with admissions officers, scholarship representatives, potential employers and others with whom a positive impression would be important.

WEEK 8: October 12 – 16

- ✓ Inquire about the schedule for mid-term exams that will be administered for 4x4 (block) courses. Support your student with encouragement to begin preparing for these exams which will count as 20% of the first quarter grade. If tutoring and/or additional reinforcement are needed, assist your student in accessing the necessary resources as available from or recommended by teachers and support staff.
- ✓ Support your student by monitoring any attendance issues. The student's attendance information may be viewed by having your student log on to their PowerSchool account. Encourage regular attendance in all courses to avoid unexcused or unnecessary absences that may require recovery by the end of the semester. For any student with excessive absences in a course with a passing grade, the student may be in danger of losing credit for the course if recovery obligations are not fulfilled. The best way to avoid this issue is to maintain regular attendance in all classes.
- ✓ Check with students regarding their status in completing and submitting college or scholarship applications. If essays are required and your support is needed, proofread your student's writing and provide feedback that will assist them in submitting an effective document. October 15th is a popular application deadline for early notification. Please remember that school counselors are the primary resource for support regarding the college admissions process.

WEEK 9: October 19 – 23

- ✓ October 23 – Teacher Workday (no school for students)
- ✓ October 24 – ACT administration (September 18th registration deadline)
- ✓ October 22nd signals the end of the first quarter. Have your student check in with all teachers to confirm that assignments for the quarter have been submitted. If any late work may still be turned in, even for partial credit, encourage the student to do as required by teachers.

- ✓ Encourage your student's success if they will be taking mid-term exams this week. Exam schedules may vary by school. Support your student's academic achievement by discussing any areas that may require tutoring or other resources. Review study tips with your student. Helpful information, including a checklist for students, may be found at this website: <http://www.studygs.net/attmot4.htm>.

WEEK 10: October 26 – 30

- ✓ As the second quarter begins, have your senior reflect upon first quarter progress as well as goals and improvements that may be made during this next term. Celebrate the positive aspects of how the student has begun the last year of high school.
- ✓ Have a discussion about uses of social media as your student prepares for the transition from high school to college and/or career settings. While students may find social media to be a helpful tool for postsecondary research, careful thought should also be given to the personal information they may make available to others. Encourage your senior to monitor information, accounts and security settings on a regular basis as posted information may give others insight into the student's personal activities and character. Remind students that the information shared via social media is permanent.