

## Mentor Freshmen Orientation

Things to talk about with your mentee on Thursday:

- introduce yourself, try to find common ground
  - talk about your interests (sports, music, academics, etc.)
  - ask them if they have a preferred name
  - ask about their hobbies and interests
  - ask them how they did in their classes last year
  - find out if they have concerns about this year
  
- explain how seminar will work
  - you should both be in the same seminar (check their schedule!)
  - this is time for you to assist them with homework or other questions
  - stress the importance of being organized; for example, don't shove homework in a book, instead use a folder; use the student planner to keep track of assignments, ask for progress reports from teachers, etc.
  - make certain they know you will be monitoring their progress and checking with their teachers regarding their progress
  
- explain attendance / tardy / buyback policy
  - students are allowed 4 excused absences per semester
  - over 4 at the end of the semester will result a grade reduction unless the student completes a 'buy back' for each absence over the 4 for each class.
  - it is students responsibility to keep track of their attendance / buyback situation and request a buyback from the teacher if necessary.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> tardy – warning; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 15 minute detention; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 30 minute detention; 4<sup>th</sup> – 1 hour detention; 5<sup>th</sup> – in house suspension; 6<sup>th</sup> – Dean of Students discretion
  
- explain the relationship between homework and grades
  - doing homework = improved grades; for some of these students there has been little accountability in the past, stress that the high school has high expectations and in some classes missing ONE assignment will result in failure!
  
- after / during lunch discuss their schedule and classes
  - find their locker and classrooms
  - talk honestly and realistically (but positively) about teachers and the expectations of the classes they have
  - if necessary, explain how to get a schedule change

Above all else, be positive and enthusiastic! ☺

This is fresh start for your mentees and they need to know that you WANT to make a difference in their life!!