

West High School PDS 2001-2002 Mentor Application

As a PDS, we have continually revisited our current and past practices in an effort to improve our planning for the future. As you remember, we used a mentor application during our second year as a PDS to be sure that we were involving faculty members as mentors who truly wanted to assume that role. What we have learned from other “seasoned” PDSs is that it is important to ask the same questions every other year to be certain that we are not overlooking faculty who would like to mentor or overburdening others who may wish to take a break from that role. As a result, we’re asking every faculty member who is interested in mentoring to complete an application again this year, in addition to the faculty information sheet that was just distributed to all WHS faculty.

We have developed a few “beliefs” about mentoring that have contributed to our success as a PDS and to our commitment to WHS students’ academic and social achievements. We believe that.

- mentoring is a way of assuring that our students have beginning teachers who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to assure the success of students with diverse abilities;
- beginning teachers learn best when teaching “side by side” with exemplary teacher educators, students’ opportunities to learn are enhanced when their WHS teachers and UT interns collaborate in
- planning and delivering instruction together; and
- beginning teachers need to experience all aspects of the school environment.

Therefore, we ask that mentors assist their interns in visiting other teachers (in a variety of disciplines), participating in a variety of “innovative” activities, and taking advantage of any potential learning opportunity which include but are not limited to school improvement planning, extracurricular activities, and athletics. As a PDS, we believe that mentoring has tremendous rewards, but there are also expectations that accompany this role. We ask that mentors be “side by side teachers,” coaches, facilitators, role models, liaisons, and facilitators. We know that a great majority of our faculty could easily assume this role, but want those who are willing to let us know by completing the following:

Name: _____

Department: _____

Courses I teach that would be appropriate for an intern to co-teach

I’d like to be a lead mentor _____ or a cooperating mentor _____

Why I’d like to be a mentor

What I think I could contribute to the induction of a new teacher

Please return to Mentor Core Team Director by Friday, March 16