

From: Rabbi Ben Fried
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 2:46 PM
To: Rabbi Ben Fried
Subject: FMS Junior High invites you to....
Attachments: Focus on Mentoring.pdf

Dear 5th Grade Parents:

I hope that this email finds you well.

While you still have many months to enjoy our Lower School, it is never too late to start learning about our Junior High School.

While there will be a formal meeting for 5th grade parents later in the year, we want to start by affording you that opportunity to visit our classrooms on either November 29th from 1:30-2:45 or November 30th from 3:15-4:30 to see how we are approaching general studies (including the Summit Learning initiative). Please click [here](#) to indicate if you can join us.

Finally, I have attached this week's parent communication. If you would like to receive future communications, please respond to this email to let me know and you will be added to the list.

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom!

R. Fried and Mrs. Hodgkinson



FUCHS MIZRACHI SCHOOL

Sixth Grade Newsletter

Mentorship is a key pillar of your child's learning experience. Our newsletter this week, which has been adapted from the "Summit Insider," will help you understand the role of a mentor and why it is critical to your child's education.

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. All students are paired with a mentor who acts as their advocate both inside and outside of the classroom. Mentors meet with your child one-on-one each week to support them in their progress towards their goals.

Mentors get to know their students deeply and strive to support them as they develop their own sense of purpose. Mentors also help students build Habits of Success (discussed in page 2), set both long-term and short-term goals and coach them through their progress.

Our Community

In the script below, Mrs. Dani Gottesman, one of our mentors, is interviewed by Aytan Hochheiser and Haeli Serels:

Aytan: Hi Mrs. Gottesmann- we are from the 6th grade News Team and would like to talk to you about something new happening in 6th grade general studies... mentoring.

We think that parents will be excited to hear about this

Mrs. Gottesman: Yes I am really happy to share. Ask away.

Haeli: We are always being told to use the 5 W's when researching for our classes so I hope you don't mind if we start with What? What exactly is mentoring and mentor time?

Mrs. Gottesman: I don't mind at all and would love to share not only the what but why I really value the opportunity to be a mentor.

Being able to give each student 1:1 mentor time is a key part of our educational approach and it's brand new in the Middle School.

Every week I meet with each of my mentees individually for about 10 minutes. During this time I'm a teacher and cheerleader as they set individual weekly goals, plan strategies to achieve goals and then reflect and adapt according to their progress. It's really where personalized learning starts. With the student. Where they are in each subject.

Aytan: Like setting goals to complete my book journal really helped me to keep going?

Mrs. Gottesman: Exactly! Even in this early part of the year I'm seeing students develop a voice and understanding of how to be self directed learners and develop the habits of success.

Haeli: Can you explain more about Habits of Success?

Mrs. Gottesman: Yes, during our mentoring we encourage students to develop perseverance, positive mindsets and agency-all proven Habits of Success.

Haeli: Are you the only mentor?

Mrs. Gottesman: Every 6th grade student has a mentor. Mrs. Yulish and Mrs. Hodgkinson both have students they meet with each day during personalized learning time.



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Aytan: Thank you and we learned about the who, when, and where of mentoring too! So moving on to possibly the most important W, why? Why do you think that being a mentor is such a valuable part of this new approach to learning in 6th grade?

Mrs. Gottesman: It's a teacher's dream to be able to meet individually with students in a structured setting. It gives me the opportunity to develop a positive relationship. I can really invest in all my students. I can talk about habits of success and self directed learning but perhaps the best reason why I think mentoring is so valuable is an example from a student. A student approached me after passing a content assessment and said, "I know I passed because we planned how and when I should study and I followed the plan." At that moment I realized that mentoring could make a difference and what's more amazing is that it's happening every day in our 6th grade classrooms at Fuchs Mizrahi.



Haili and Aytan: Thank you so much for your time and for teaching us about the importance of mentoring. News Team out!

FAQs

Q: What does my student's schedule look like?

A: Your student's school schedule includes project time where they work on projects to build cognitive skills, mentor time where they develop a deep understanding of their personal goals, and personalized learning time where they pursue individualized pathways to master content. These elements are pillars of Summit Learning's scientifically backed educational model.



THE SCIENCE OF SUMMIT

Part Five: Why Summit Learning values the Habits of Success

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

The Research

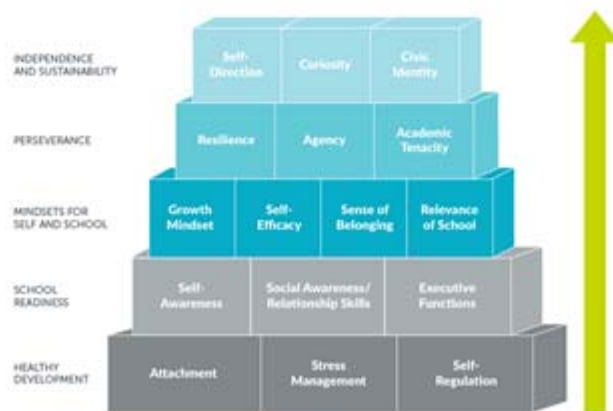
Research on the development of Habits of Success proves social-emotional learning is undoubtedly linked to academic learning. Learning scientists find that students need Habits of Success — a set of skills, mindsets, dispositions, and behaviors — to succeed in college and life. Development of habits, which occurs on a continuum over time, is most effective when integrated into the social learning environment of a school and classroom (Farrington, 2012; Stafford-Brizard, 2016; AIR, 2017).

In the Classroom

Building Habits of Success is embedded in every aspect of the your child's learning experience.

- The curriculum fosters the development of Habits of Success in all projects and subjects, and across all grades.
- Students have weekly 1:1 mentor meetings to set short- and long-term goals and reflect on their progress.
- Students also meet in peer groups to work on positive identity formation and receive instruction on Habits of Success.
- Teachers also receive training to help students build Habits of Success.

Summit Learning adopted educational psychologist K. Brooke Stafford-Brizard's Building Blocks for Learning as our framework. It outlines 16 key social-emotional learning skills for comprehensive student development.



Rabbi Ben Fried, Principal, Junior High School
[216.932.0220 x2150](tel:216.932.0220) | 26600 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
FUCHS MIZRACHI SCHOOL | www.fuchsmizrachi.org