

Chester County Futures



A monthly newsletter of program highlights, events and resources to make the most of your mentoring relationship.

Curriculum: What's happening in the CCF classroom?

- 9th Grade:** Communication
10th Grade: "Is College Worth It?"
11th Grade: Different types of colleges and majors
12th Grade: Transcripts and financial aid

10 Tips For Building a Mentoring Relationship

1. Have realistic goals and expectations – focus on the teenager and their overall development. Your early efforts should just be on developing rapport.
2. Have fun together – play games, go bowling, go to the movies, etc.
3. Give the teen you are mentoring a voice and choice in deciding on activities - it demonstrates your trust, and builds skills and confidence.
4. Be positive - be encouraging and offer concrete assistance.
5. Let the teen you are mentoring have significant control over what the two of you talk about - and how you talk about it - don't push, be sensitive and aware of different communication styles.
6. Listen - 'just listening' will develop trust - not criticizing or judging.
7. Respect the trust the teenager places in you - show them that you understand and are committed to the relationship.
8. Be a friend - don't be a parent or authority figure.
9. Remember YOU are responsible for building the relationship - take responsibility for making and maintaining contact and don't expect too much feedback from the teenager.
10. Remember that your relationship is with the teen and not the teen's parents - keep your relationship with them cordial but distant. (This point is not always valid, especially if you are a friend of the family or a relative. Make sure parents know who you are, at least enough to trust you.)

(excerpt from *UnderstandingTeenagers.com*. For the entire blog, go to <http://understandingteenagers.com.au/blog/15-tips-resources-for-mentors-of-youth/>)



Mentors (far left) Patrick, Lisa, and Liz with CCF Kennett 10th grade class after their project-based learning project.

Upcoming Events

April 22: Earth Day

April 23: Talk Like Shakespeare Day

April 30: National Honesty Day



Report Cards

The 3rd quarter is over!
Report cards will be emailed soon.

Not sure what to ask about school? Ask:

- ⇒ What classes are you taking next year?
- ⇒ What did your Student Services Coordinator say about your report card?
- ⇒ Who's your funniest teacher? (Then share a story about a teacher that used to make you laugh!)

"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself."

~ Oprah Winfrey

Activity Center

Looking for an **outing**?
Check out this site for some great ideas.

[101 Things to Do in Chester County \(and surrounding areas\)](#)

Like the **outdoors**?

Try [Jenkins Arboretum](#), open every day from 9am-4pm and admission is free.

Artistic or into **woodworking**?

Try [Wharton Esherick Museum](#), adults \$15 and students \$12.



We're here if you need us!

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