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Mentor Monthly Newsletter, December 11, 2025



100%!

With a phenomenal last push by McDowell Mountain teachers and administrators, we reached 100% placement of 56 mentees in the district! We currently have 45 active mentors providing this vital service to students who will benefit from one-on-one mentoring and Golden Eagle Education Foundation Mentor Program is immensely grateful for your participation. As the new year begins, we hope to hear from a few new mentees, particularly high schoolers. For those who are still waiting, thank you for your patience!

Several current mentors responded to the call for anyone ready and willing to take on an extra mentee to get the last of our current candidates placed. After the first of the year when our seasonal residents return, we'll put a reminder out to the schools that we have more volunteers ready to make an impact on our students. Seasonal residents who are returning over the few months, please make contact when you are ready to begin and, as mentees become available, we'll work on getting you placed.

Important Dates for Scheduling

Please DO consult the attached updated calendar for important dates and remember to let your mentee(s) know that you will return after winter break.

Mark your calendars:

Our next 'social/info' event is a 'GREET & GRANOLA' in honor of National Mentor Month on January 21, 2026, 8am-9:30a at the FHUSD Learning Center. Hope to see you there! Look for an 'RSVP' request early in January.

Know your teacher contact info

Remember to let your mentee's teacher know if you will be absent for a scheduled day of mentoring. All teacher gmails are (first initial)(last name)[@fhacademics.org](mailto:fhacademics.org); e.g.: Stef Beck is: sbeck@fhacademics.org

Mentee Engagement Suggestions

This month, **SCIENCE**, with technology, engineering, & math (STEM) is our featured academic discipline. Here are some AZ ED useful links with grade appropriate suggestions. There are an incredible number of science resources available on the web, but these are some all-purpose, AZ state recommended options. Each grade level specific recommendation is a PLACEMAT that outlines overarching skills that build upon themselves over the K-12 experience.

Kinder-2, -[K-2 Science and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts Placemat.pdf](#)

3-5- [Third - Fifth Grade SEP and CCC Arizona Science Standards Placemat](#)

6th-8th - [6-8 Science and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts Placemat.pdf](#)

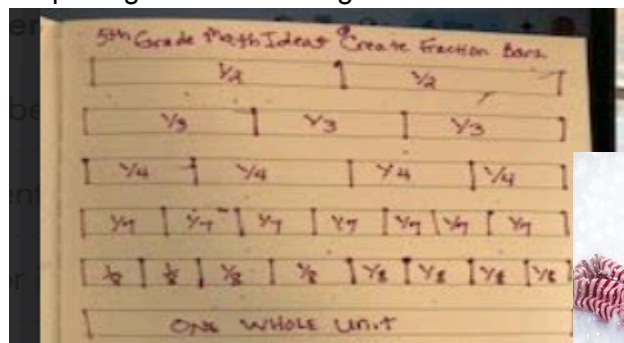
HS - [9-12 Science and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts Placemat.pdf](#)

Read and Write On!

Keep a bit of reading/writing going every week. R/ELA is divided into two types of language: Expressive and Receptive. Our culture is toddling along okay with receptive language even as we get lost in more and more screen time. However, expressive language is getting left behind. Consider a few expressive language skills elicitors like: 'describe', 'evaluate', and 'think before you respond' to help your mentee(s) develop good communication skills.

Encourage Using Skills Over the Break

Challenge your mentee to commit to some type of **'thinking' activity** over the break...read 15 minutes a day, practice math facts, conduct a 'kitchen science' experiment (with a grownup's permission!), write (and illustrate some thank you notes/letters for holiday generosity, research community projects. Ask them to keep a log of their 'thinking' activities to share on return.



How Are Things?

Expect to hear from a co-coordinating team member early in the new year; we'll be auditing our database* and would love to hear a bit about your experiences as we begin to build next year's program. The mentor program is an ever evolving work in progress and your input will help us keep improving this all-volunteer program!

From Golden Eagle Education Foundation Mentor Program Co-coordinators

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." – Chinese Proverb

Whether children, businesses, homes or other projects, we all have metaphorical 'trees' that we've nurtured in the past and we cheer on those of you who have joined our mission to provide the seeds of knowledge, confidence, and other joys to this current generation of young living beings. May your holidays be wonderful and may your commitment to help our young mentees prepare for the future continue to guide you!

Happy holidays, Kim, Donna, Michelle & Connie



A Note from the Golden Eagle Education Foundation Board

A special thank-you to everyone who stopped by our table at **Stroll in the Glow** this past weekend. It was wonderful to connect with so many supporters in person.

As you consider year-end giving, we encourage you to use your **Arizona Charitable Tax Credit** to support the Golden Eagle Education Foundation.

For 2025, individuals filing **single, married filing separately, or head of household** may claim up to **\$495**, and **married filing jointly** may claim up to **\$987**. Arizona law allows donations made anytime during 2025—or between **January 1, 2026 and April 15, 2026**—to be claimed on the **2025 AZ income tax return**.

Please consult your tax professional for specific details regarding your situation.

When donating at www.fhgeef.org, please select "**Area of Greatest Need**" in the dropdown. This allows us to direct funds where they will create the greatest impact across all four of our signature programs.

Wishing you a warm and joyful holiday season!

—The Golden Eagle Education Foundation Board

~Jenna



MENTOR PROGRAM

2025-2026 Calendar of Events

Month	Important Dates & Special Events
AUGUST	- Informational emails sent to all previous and new mentors
SEPTEMBER	-Welcome Back Mentors GREET & GRANOLA, September 3rd, Learning Center 8-9:30am -Training/Refresh Session: Thursday, September 4, 9-11am, Chamber -Match Mentors with Mentees! Let's start after Labor Day!
OCTOBER	-Fall Break; no school October 6-13 Training/Refresh Session: Thursday, October 2, 9-11am, Chamber October 27-31: FALL CONFERENCES. Note that 10/29-10/31 will be HALF day release; no mentoring will be scheduled during these conference days. Remind your mentee that you'll be back in early November. Elementary school mentors! You should be hearing from your assigned mentee's
NOVEMBER	-Training/Refresh Session: Thursday, November 6, 9-11am, Chamber -'Coffee & Catch Up' Wed. Nov. 5 (tentative 1-3pm, place TBD) -Tuesday, 11/11 - Veterans' Day. No school - Thank a Veteran! - Friday, 11/14-16 - Orme Dam Festival at Fort McDowell - Wednesday, 11/26 - ½ day release; check your mentee's schedule - Thanksgiving Break, 11/27-30. Students returns 12/1
DECEMBER	Weekly mentoring only; no scheduled training or other events. See your Mentor Manual for gift giving 'best practices', pg.21, item #6 Friday, December 19th, Half-day release; Winter break begins, No Mentoring on this short schedule day. -Winter Break: December 22-January 5 - remember to let your mentee know that you're excited to see them again after the break!
JANUARY	Tuesday, January 6, 2026 - students return -Training/Refresh Session: Thursday, January 15, 9-11am, Chamber of Commerce Building MLK Day, Monday, January 19; No school. -Thank You Mentor Gathering, January 21, Learning Center 8-9:30a
FEBRUARY	-'Coffee & Catch Up' Wed. Feb. 11 (tentative 1-3pm, place TBD) - February 16, Presidents' Day, No School,
MARCH	-Spring Break: no school March 9-16 -remember to let your mentee know that you're excited to see them again AFTER the break!! -State Testing (dates tbd)
APRIL	-State Testing (dates tbd) -'Coffee & Catch Up' Wed. April 1st (tentative 1-3pm, place TBD) -April 3, District Recess. No School.
MAY	-End of Year Mentor/Mentee Celebrations (tbd at each building). Attendance is strongly encouraged! -Last day for Mentoring: Friday May 15 (tentative/to be discussed) -Mentor Evaluation Form Posted; please respond by May 31st -Complete Mentor Profile if continuing for the 2026-27 school year