Let’s Read Volunteer Orientation

Detroit Public Schools Community District
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Let's Read

This volunteer program was influenced by collaboration and discussion between DPSCD, The National Action Network, and The Keep the Vote No Takeover Coalition.

The program continues to build on the foundation of the Reading Corps Volunteer Initiative.

All Reading Corps Volunteers will be a part of this new initiative as we strive to achieve the Blueprint for 2020.
Why volunteer?

There are lots of great reasons to get involved in the community. What's yours?
DISTRICT

- Defined and trained teachers and principals on excellent instruction
- Purchased new, grade level materials for all schools with culturally relevant novels
- Implemented diagnostic system to determine what skills students need for literacy intervention
- Ongoing training on standards, new curriculum, and intervention tools
- Provided schools with Master Teachers to support new and struggling teachers and Academic Interventions to work with students in small groups
- Initiated competitive independent reading campaign to encourage lifelong learning.

It Takes a Village

FAMILIES

- Establish a daily read-at-home time to read with their child
- Ensure their students are on-time to school
- Communicate with the teacher using the District provided planner
- Ensure students bring their student workbook and trade-book back to school every day

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Volunteer in our schools through Let's Read!
- Attend Parent Academy offerings
- Provide support for district and school based initiatives such as summer and after school opportunities
Our Mission

- To improve the reading skills of Detroit Public Schools Community District's children beginning with pre-kindergarten students.

- This plan for early intervention will ensure students meet the national standard of reading at or above grade level by 3rd grade.
Volunteers Move Our Mission Forward

- **Research shows** that it is extremely difficult for a struggling reader to “catch up” if the child is unable to read by the end of third grade. For this reason, the District has identified a goal of ensuring that by 2020, all current pre-kindergarten students and those, thereafter, will be able to read at or above grade level by the end of third grade. Volunteers will help students become proficient with printed text.

- **Let’s Read Volunteers** tutor students in grades Kindergarten through 3 in this initiative. There are nearly 200 volunteers currently tutoring our students.

- **All Elementary School Principals** are tasked with supporting the Let’s Read program.
Program Overview

Reading is the basis for learning and school success. While reading is learned primarily in the classroom, many students need extra time and help. Research shows that tutoring is a great way for individuals and groups outside school to support learning. Effective tutoring requires appropriate training and careful planning. This will positively impact the educational experiences of DPSCD students.
SAFE INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS

Volunteers are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

As a volunteer you will:

- Meet in public spaces with students within the school setting. Do not meet with students behind closed doors or off campus without prior parent/guardian permission.

- Refrain from initiating social activities outside the school setting without school or parent/guardian approval.

- Refrain from initiating any conversations or physical correspondence of a private or personal nature with students.

- Refrain from engaging in social networking with students via Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Vine, Twitter or other social networking websites without parent/guardian approval.
SAFE INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS, Continued...

Volunteers are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

- Refrain from sharing your personal phone or email information without parent/guardian permission.
- Refrain from giving students gifts unless of nominal value or identical for all students in the class.
- Refrain from giving students inappropriate signs of affection such as front hugs, students sitting on lap, touching or patting on areas other than shoulders, upper back, arms or hands or any other contact that causes you or a student to feel uncomfortable.
What will I do as a Let’s Read volunteer?

- Work with assigned students in grades K-3 grade on the foundational skills of literacy

- Use a workbook aligned with the student’s needs and i-Ready diagnostic assessment.

- Provide the students with opportunities to read books of choice.
30 Minute Reading Session

Building Fluency with Letters & High Frequency Words (5 Minutes)
- Flash card review, High Frequency Word Bingo, Letter Tiles or other sight word review.

Practice Foundational Skills with Workbook (15 Minutes)
- Review skills from previous workbook pages.
- Work with the child on the next 2-4 pages (depending upon student's ability).
- Practice skills and model sounds and words that match the activities.

Developing a Love of Reading (10 Minutes)
- Read a new storybook and model good reading habits like predicting, summarizing and connecting to the text with real life events.
- Preview the book cover and ask the child what they think the story might be about.
- Remember to read using an energetic voice. Read at a moderate pace so your student can keep pace.
Your Work Supports Classroom Learning

Let's Read Tutor Help:

- Build Foundational Skills
- Reinforce High Frequency Words with flash cards & games
- Reinforce Letter Recognition and Sounds (Phonemic Awareness)
- Reinforce Consonant Blends and Married Vowel Sounds
- Handwriting Skills (Sky Writing & Workbook Completion)
- Build Confidence and Love for Learning
Volunteer/Administrator Responsibilities

**VOLUNTEER**
- Show ID upon entering the school building.
- Report to the designated area to sign in.
- Proceed to assigned classroom/workspace at your scheduled time.
- Work with each assigned student for 30 minutes.
- Support student(s) as they transition from one lesson/subject to the next.

**ADMINISTRATOR**
- Provide volunteers with school contact information.
- Contact you directly to confirm your student assignments.
- Develop your schedule in consultation with teachers and confirm locations and times prior to your start date.
- Ensure a work area where you can work with your assigned students.
- Provide a log for you to sign in/out each day.
- Set up time for you to meet with parents by request.
- Ensure volunteer hours are tracked and reported to FACE.
- Accompany Let’s Read volunteers on their first classroom visit.
Tips for Volunteers

• Use positive words to build relationships with your mentees

• Be mindful of student behaviors. Help students overcome challenges!

• Celebrate small achievements
Developing a Love of Reading
Student Learning Outcomes

- Children served through Let's Read program will increase the development of their reading skills and listening vocabulary.
- Mentoring children through tutoring builds self-confidence, motivation, and a sense of pride in themselves.
- Reading to children enables volunteers to demonstrate the nature, pleasures, and rewards of reading, to increase students' interest in books and their desires to become avid readers.
Upcoming Calendar Events

September
- National Literacy Month
- Recruitment and training of Let’s Read Volunteers
- Hispanic Heritage Month

October
- Rise Up, Read More Kick-Off

November
- Rise Up, Read More Continues

December
- Rise Up, Read More Continues

January
- Rise Up, Read More Continues
- School Based Spelling Bee Competitions

February
- Black History Month
- District Spelling Bee, Saturday, 2/8/2020 2 0am Northwestern HS
- Rise Up, Read More Celebrations 10th-14th (winning schools)
Upcoming Calendar Events

March
- National Read Across America
- National Reading Month
- WXYZ Channel 7 Spelling Bee (March 28th @ 10am)- Charles H. Wright Museum

April
- National Poetry Monty
- Drop Everything & Read Day (April 12th)

May
- Scripps National Spelling Bee, Washington D.C.
- Teacher Appreciation Week May 3-9
- Asian Pacific American Heritage

June
- Summer Reading Begins!
- Rise Up, Read More Celebration (winning schools) June 15-18, 2020
- Reading Extravaganza – Saturday, June 13, 2020 Detroit Public Library
Final Thought:

Many things can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made; his mind is being developed. To him, we cannot say tomorrow. His name is TODAY!

By: Gabriella Mistral

We look forward to you becoming a Let’s Read Volunteer and inviting someone to be a part of the program.
Thank you!