



## **Mentoring Best Practices Session**

### **April 27, 2021**

#### **What went well with virtual mentoring during the 2020-21 school year?**

- Communication and sharing best practices - real time - allowing other schools to make adjustments.
- Presentations from the website were well done.
- Shared documents with students prior to the meeting (at some schools).
- Condensed time of the session - allowing students time to take a break before the next class.
- Icebreakers.
- Students were on camera!
- Coordinator & Principal assistance.
- Falling Creek was gender combined and worked well.
- Utilizing all tech features like chat to involve everyone even.
- School Coordinator was in all the sessions.
- School Coordinator set up the meetings.
- Encouraged by Feedback from students and school coordinators.
- Comradeship of mentors.
- Curriculum was helpful- easy to follow.
- Mentor commitment, dedication, and perseverance during 2021 mentoring season.

#### **What didn't go well / Needs Improvement**

- Technology issues with students joining the sessions - make sure issues such as these are cleared.
- Student recruitment.
- Showing videos with Google Meet was a challenge.
- Sharing documents electronically with students prior to the meeting - is there a better way to do this?
- Parents interrupted during sessions, did not know whether students were virtual or in-person.
- Liaison responsibility & accountability (periodic check-ins).
- Space issues, working around student schedules (lunches).
- Student participation got better as time went on.
- 8th grade Dos and Don'ts with Social Media - appears to be Character Development.



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#### **What best practices should we implement?**

- Practice run with students prior to starting the program.
- Have someone monitor the chat during the sessions.
- Combine the genders in virtual mentoring.
- Have roles and responsibilities for School Coordinators will assist with selection process.
- Discuss ahead of time the upcoming lessons and tried to streamline and focus our message considering the shortened time slot.
- Open sessions with Holiday/Special Observances - Women's History Month, Black History Month, etc.