

Building Trust

- Pray for your school, administrators, teachers and staff.
- Go in with no agenda. Under promise and over deliver.
- Be sensitive to church/state boundaries. We are invited guests. We can demonstrate the love of God without verbally sharing our faith.
- Maintain a relationship with the principal, meeting at least once a month to show your support and to ask how you can help.
- Get involved in the PTO. You may learn of school and classroom needs through this group.
- Focus on encouraging and supporting teachers/staff. Send them notes of encouragement. Find tangible ways to bless them.
- Be present for school activities and events, being intentional about talking with staff and getting to know them.
- Partner with other churches and local agencies to meet needs in a school. You will increase your impact and the school will be blessed.



- Be available and provide support during times of crisis (illness, death, fire, hospitalization).
- Plan to stay for the "long-haul". Long-term commitment is essential to building trust and to making a difference in mentoring relationships.

Practical Ways to Serve

- Support and affirm the work of teachers:
 - Write notes of encouragement
 - Provide snacks for the breakroom
 - Give modest gifts or gift cards
 - Host a meal (First week, Teacher appreciation, Staff development day, etc.)
 - Serve international teachers
- Help students succeed:
 - Serve as a Reading Buddy, tutor, or mentor
 - Provide food for the food insecure on the weekend (Backpack Buddy)
 - Offer after-school tutoring or summer academic camp
 - Mentor high school students at risk of not graduating
 - Provide job shadowing opportunities for high school students (40 hours are needed to be "career ready")
- Supply student needs:
 - Fill backpacks with school supplies
 - Give hats, coats, gloves in the winter
 - Furnish the elementary school with extra clothes for when a student needs to change
 - Organize a book drive to gift students with books at Christmas and before summer vacation
- Offer your church facilities for events.
- Encourage your church to consistently pray for the school: administrators, teachers, staff and students.