

The WHS Peer Mentor Program

What is the Peer Mentor program?

The purpose of the Peer Mentor program is to provide support for 9th graders and transfer students in their transition to the high school. The peer mentors are juniors and seniors who have shown an interest in and capacity for helping others. All peer mentors are matched with student mentees. The program has been up and running at Wayland High School for over ten years.

What exactly to peer mentors do?

Peer mentors will be assigned to 9th Grade Guidance seminars, which begin in September and run through the first semester. These seminars meet once during the eight-day cycle, are led by a guidance counselor, and have 12 - 18 students. The curriculum addresses the major issues of transition and adjustment to the high school and the "tasks" of adolescence. In addition, the seminars focus on academic requirements, expectations and the realities of the high school program. Time management, stress management and setting priorities are also addressed. Discussions also focus on resources in the high school and how to access them - from academic assistance from teachers, the Academic Center, to accessing social-emotional support.

Each peer mentor will have student mentees in that seminar to whom they are assigned. The peer mentors will assist the guidance counselors and be available outside of seminars to connect with their mentees. Some peer mentors provide tutoring, others interact around shared interests and activities, and some may talk during free periods, by phone, email, text or Facebook.

**Peer mentors will be required to participate in Step Over Day in June and Connections Day (9th Grade Orientation) in late August.

**Peer mentors will be required to complete a weekly journal entry on the Peer Mentor It's Learning Page

**Peer mentors will be scheduled into 9th grade seminars, be required to attend and receive 1 academic credit

Who can I talk with to get more information on the Peer Mentor program?

The Peer Mentor program is run by Jen Sullivan, Wayland High School Adjustment Counselor and Barb Wolfson, Academic Center Director. You can talk with either one of them or email them:

Jennifer_Sullivan@wayland.k12.ma.us or

Barbara_Wolfson@wayland.k12.ma.us