



# WHAT IS KIDS HOPE USA?

## PROVEN MENTORING PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

— AT NO COST!



Kids Hope USA is a national mentoring organization that connects schools with community-focused churches and organizations who provide positive adults to serve as mentors for selected students. Through consistent one-on-one meetings, with respect to the Separation of Church and State, this proven program increases school engagement and enriches the lives of students.



## WHY MENTORING?



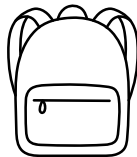
Research shows that a positive relationship with a caring and consistent adult can make a significant difference in a child's life.

Mentoring enhances students' social and emotional growth. A Kids Hope USA mentor meets weekly with their student for support and encouragement.

Teachers report that after meeting with their mentor, students improved in:

- positive peer interactions
- motivation for schoolwork
- positive behavior, self-regulation, and control
- academic skills

## THE STUDENTS



Students in a Kids Hope USA mentoring program are referred by teachers, principals or school counselors who believe additional support and attention will benefit the child.

- Mentors serve as PBIS Tier 2 support.
- Referral focus is on K-5 children, as early years are critical for forming values, developing self-esteem, and acquiring academic skills.
- While it's up to the school to refer children, younger children allow for the opportunity to have a longer mentoring relationship.

*"What a mentor means to me is another layer of social and emotional support that some students need. It's someone they look forward to seeing. It is a positive adult relationship that they have in their life."*

-Teacher



## THE MENTORING HOUR

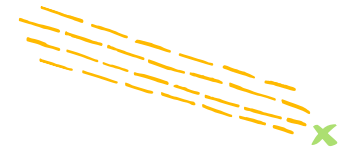
Trained Kids Hope USA mentors form one-on-one relationships with students through weekly, one-hour visits at the school.

- During their hour together, the mentor and student play games, read together, and get to know each other.
- Time together is focused on supporting the students social, emotional and academic development. Mentors are not intended to be tutors.
- Building their relationship supports students' academic growth.



## SEPARATION OF CHURCH & STATE

Kids Hope USA mentoring programs train mentors to strictly adhere to the Separation of Church and State, as indicated by the U.S. Department of Education. Mentors abide by the rules of the school when at school and are reminded of this separation through trainings and best practices.



*"We love seeing the mentors come into our school to meet with our students. Their consistency and encouragement is transforming our students."*

*-Principal*



## THE SCHOOL



Schools welcome their community partners and maintain minimal responsibilities in a Kids Hope USA program.

The school...

- offers an opportunity for the church to introduce Kids Hope USA partnership to the school staff and teachers.
- identifies and refers students who would benefit from having a mentor.
- assist in matching mentors and students.
- secures guardian consent for the mentoring program.
- designates an appropriate space for weekly mentoring.



## INTERESTED IN A KIDS HOPE USA PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL?

We would love to help you secure a church partner to walk alongside your school. To learn more or discuss the next step, please call 616.546.3580 or email partnerships@kidshopeusa.org to connect with our Partnership Growth Team.

We look forward to the opportunity to serve you and your students!

## THE CHURCH



The church partner manages the program responsibilities and covers all program costs.

- The church recruits and supports a staff member or volunteer to direct the program.
- The director goes through extensive training (takes on average one month to complete).
- The director recruits, screens, trains, and supports volunteer mentors.
- Once the church commits to being a Kids Hope USA partner, it takes about three months for recruiting, screening, and training the volunteers for mentoring to begin.



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