



## Partner Morning FAQ's



**Q: What is a Cornerstone Partner?**

A: Cornerstone Partners are adult volunteers who give of themselves so others may lead more abundant lives. Partners do this by participating in Partner Morning four times per school year for two hours each morning. Each Partner is matched with a classroom of students at the school of their choosing.

**Q: What is expected of me as a Partner?**

A: As a Partner, you will be expected to attend four Partner Mornings per year for a total of 8 volunteer hours. Partners will enjoy time in the classroom with the students participating in a structured group activity that centers on the theme for that Partner Morning. They will also have time for open conversation with students.

We ask that you respect the confidentiality of your relationship with the students and provide a listening ear and support. Be sure to ask questions to encourage the students to open up, and share about your educational journey, career, and family. Our goal is for students to broaden their perspectives, interact with adults who support and encourage them, be open to opportunities that will enrich their educational experience, and help them lead fulfilling lives.

**Q: Why is the Partner Program important?**

A: This program fosters relationships between adults and students enabling students to improve communication skills, develop an aptitude for building relationships, be inspired through the experiences of others, and feel the joy that these friendships bring. Partners also often say how these exchanges with the students help inspire and motivate them as well. Being a mentor to a young person is an incredibly rewarding experience!

**Q: What should I do if I am unable to attend a Partner Morning and wish to tell the students that I am thinking of them?**

A: We ask that you please try to find a substitute to come in your place and spend time with the students. You may also want to write a note to the students explaining that you will not be able to attend, but you are thinking of them. You should address the note to the students in care of the school principal, or you can send it to Partner Morning with your substitute.

**Q: Should I RSVP for each Partner Morning?**

A: Yes. This helps us prepare for each Partner Morning and ensure we have enough Partners for all the classrooms. We will provide an email inviting you to attend Partner Morning with an RSVP link. If you are unable to attend, you can register your chosen substitute using the same link. When you RSVP, you will also be given the option to add the event to your electronic calendar.



**Q: Should I spend time with students beyond regularly scheduled Partner Morning events?**

A: Partner Mornings offer a wonderful opportunity to develop personal relationships with students. Spending time with students outside of the school is not permitted unless it's done within the context of a classroom event such as a field trip, school concert, graduation ceremony, etc.

**Q: May I bring gifts to the students or take students to lunch?**

A: It is preferred that the primary contact between you and the students be done at the school. We ask that you refrain from giving gifts or money to the students. Gifts that the entire class can enjoy are permissible and can be coordinated through the Partner Program Manager.

Students are not permitted off campus during lunch time, but you are welcome to have lunch with the students during a regular lunch period at the school. Please contact the school principal to coordinate your lunch visit.

**Q: Can I invite a friend/family member/co-worker to join me?**

A: Yes, please! We encourage Partners to bring guests and share the joy that this program brings. Your guests can go to [CornerstoneSchools.org](http://CornerstoneSchools.org) and click the "Be A Partner" tab to sign up or you can include them as a guest in your own RSVP. You can also choose to adopt a classroom with your friends and family if you would like to impact even more students.

**Q: What is the Adopt-A-Classroom option?**

A: Some of our corporate and individual Partners have expressed an interest in inviting others to be a Partner. You can adopt a classroom of students by recruiting a minimum of 6 individuals to join you at Partner Morning. If you would like more information on how to adopt a classroom, please reach out to your Development Officer or [Janice.Perzigian@CEGSchools.org](mailto:Janice.Perzigian@CEGSchools.org).

**Q: May I take photos of my students?**

A: We ask that you please refrain from taking photos of the children out of respect for the privacy of our students and families. Not all of the students have a photo release on file giving parental permission for the student to have his or her photo taken.

■ Should you have further questions, please contact Janice Perzigian, Partner Program Manager: [Janice.Perzigian@CEGSchools.org](mailto:Janice.Perzigian@CEGSchools.org) or 248-268-8521