

READING BUDDIES

A Partnership for Student Success

Reading Buddies will require some additional effort from you, and we want to acknowledge that up front. However, our commitment is to carry as much of the recruiting, scheduling, communication and administrative burden as possible. Based on our experience, we believe the return for students, teachers and the school as a whole is well worth the effort.

We will likely begin the year with fewer volunteers than needed to serve all of your Tier 2 students. However, more students can be added as volunteers become available. Our goal is to eventually have a volunteer spending 30 minutes of quality one-on-one time each week with every Tier 2 student.

TEACHERS	READING BUDDY VOLUNTEERS	AMBASSADORS OF DIGNITY (AOD)
Identify students for the program as volunteers become available. Have a student ready. If the assigned student is absent or unavailable, have another student ready. If a Reading Buddy volunteer shows up, we want to be sure there is a student to read with. Have materials ready. Each student should have a packet with the current book, reading scores to-date, and teacher notes (if needed). AOD will provide “Get to Know You” questions for the packet. Have a second book ready for when the student finishes the first book. Plan ahead. Let us know as early as possible about field trips, assemblies, testing or other conflicts. Communicate openly. Tell us when something is not working, including when a student-volunteer match is not a good fit. Welcome volunteers. A smile, hello or simple thank-you goes a long way. Designate a Lead Teacher. One teacher serves as the grade-level point of contact. The Lead Teacher helps keep the communication lines open.	Be dependable. We ask volunteers to make their weekly Reading Buddies time a priority and arrive on time when scheduled. Communicate with their Team Leader. We ask volunteers to notify their Team Leader as early as possible about absences, when a student is nearing the end of a book, or about other needs or concerns. Give the student their full attention. Our regular goal is one student with one Reading Buddy for 30 minutes of quality time each week. Follow your direction. You know your students and their reading needs. We ask volunteers to use the books, reading information, and guidance you provide. Build a relationship. We ask volunteers to encourage their student, celebrate progress, get to know them, and keep showing up. We've discovered that what begins with reading often grows into a meaningful relationship. Respect appropriate boundaries. Volunteers are caring adults. They are not teachers, counselors, or parents.	Recruit and organize. We will recruit volunteers, coordinate schedules, manage assignments and provide a Team Leader for each grade. Communicate weekly. Teachers will receive weekly emails with volunteer assignments. Team Leaders will communicate changes, needs and other information to the Lead Teacher as soon as possible. Provide coverage. We will work to have a volunteer for every regularly scheduled student. When needed, one volunteer may read with multiple students, but one-on-one remains our goal. Grow capacity. As more volunteers join, teachers can add students. Carry administration. We will handle as much of the program administration as possible. Listen and adjust. Sometimes a match or process will not work. Tell us when something isn't working, and we'll do the same. Care about teachers too. We do not want to be just another program. We care about you! We want to come alongside you and help you achieve your goals. 😊

THE HEART OF THE PARTNERSHIP. Reading is where we start, but relationships are what develop. A caring adult returns week after week, learns a child's name, encourages progress and keeps showing up. Our goal is open communication in both directions so problems can be addressed early and successes celebrated.

One student. One Reading Buddy. Thirty minutes. Every week.