Dear Parents/Guardians,

Illini Mentor Program (IMP) is an award-winning registered student organization at the University of Illinois dedicated to fostering meaningful and consistent mentoring relationships between university students and children in the local community with the goal of supporting learning, growth, skill-building, and interracial and cultural understanding. IMP has operated site-based mentoring programs successfully since 2005 with active partnerships at Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club and Dr. Preston L. Williams Elementary School.

In collaboration with Dr. Williams Elementary School, IMP will operate a site-based mentoring program for 3rd-5th grade children afterschool on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:15-4:45 p.m. during the 2021-22 academic year (families select ONE day weekly for a child’s participation). The mentoring program is available free of charge to families.

Mentees receive one-on-one attention from a designated mentor throughout the school year, and these relationships often continue for more than one year in the program. The program emphasizes academic support, reading, and enrichment activities to build developmental assets that will help children to become healthy, successful, and responsible citizens. Each session provides individualized attention for academic support as well as group activities that mentors and mentees participate in together. Example activities include themes such as the arts, STEM, culture and diversity, self-esteem, health and nutrition, stress management, communication and interpersonal skills, and service to the community. IMP’s site supervisors provide support for each session, and they are available to help family members with questions and concerns.

All University of Illinois student mentors commit to providing quality mentoring for the school year and submit to a criminal background check in accordance with the school’s policies and an application and interview process. Mentors receive supervision and participate regularly in reflection and development activities to enhance their mentoring skills. Mentors also engage in fundraising and committee work to provide program materials and to plan group activities.

Some expectations for participation in IMP include the following:

- Parents/guardians will help to set goals and expectations in consultation with the mentor/mentee (during a program orientation and other communications).
- Parents/guardians will ensure that children make it to the program regularly and on time. More than three absences may result in removal from the program. Parents are expected to notify the mentor or site supervisor ahead of time of absences/late arrivals.
- Children will come prepared with homework or academic materials in a subject that they want to focus on (when available).
- Children will come with a positive attitude, openness to new activities, and appropriate behavior. Repeated disciplinary problems may result in removal from the program.
If you would like your child to be considered for a spot, please return your completed application to the front office at Dr. Williams Elementary School. If you have more than one child whom you would like to sign up, please submit a separate application for each child. The deadline for mentee applications is Friday, September 3.

**Save the Dates:** Mentoring will begin Tuesday, September 21 and Wednesday, September 22.

We request that parents/guardians attend a mandatory orientation at the end of this first session (either Tues or Wed), from 4:45-5:30 p.m. We have learned that this is an important part of building a strong foundation for the mentoring experience. Orientation will include an opportunity to learn more about the program, meet your child’s mentor, and engage in brief discussion with your child and the mentor to build a connection, set goals for mentoring, and establish expectations for communications. IMP will provide pizza for the orientation.

After completion of mentor recruitment in mid-September, IMP will notify parents/guardians when children are matched with mentors. Due to space limitations and the availability of mentors, we may not be able to accommodate all families. IMP will create a waiting list and contact families as additional spots open during the school year. IMP grants priority to children who participated in the program previously.

Virtual 20-min information sessions with an opportunity for Q&A are available on the following dates: Aug 12 (Thurs) at 7 p.m., Aug 24 (Tues) at 7 p.m., and Aug 28 (Sat) at 10 a.m.

[Zoom Link](https://example.com) (Meeting ID: 82406752481; Password: 919946)

For questions, please contact IMP’s student president, Arohi Deshpande (arohiad2@illinois.edu or call/text at 630-452-2104). Brice Boembeke, Elementary Mentoring and Community Involvement Coordinator, Yankee Ridge & Dr. Williams, is the primary point of contact for additional questions about programs at Dr. Williams Elementary School (bboembeke@usd116.org).

Hope to see your child participate in Illini Mentor Program this year!

Note: Please keep the program overview document for your reference (pages 1-2), and submit only the completed the application (page 3-4).
Child’s First/Last Name:_________________________________________________________

Age: _______ Gender: ________ Grade: __________ School:__________________________

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _________________________________________________

Home Number:_________________________ Cell Number:_____________________________

Email Address:______________________________________________________________

Street Address:______________________________________________________________

City: __________________ State: ___________ Zip code: ______________

If someone other than the parent/guardian listed will be picking your child up from the program, please provide their contact information:

1) Name: _____________________________ Phone Number: _______________________

2) Name: _____________________________ Phone Number:_________________________

Please list your child’s known allergies to food, medications, and/or environmental substances:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Permission to have my child’s photo used in IMP promotional materials: YES_____ NO_____

Permission to have my child walk home after mentoring: YES____ NO_____

Has your child previously participated in IMP? YES_____ NO_____

Preferred program day (select one): Tuesday ________ Wednesday ________

Any specific mentor requests? ___________________________________________________

Child’s T-shirt size: XS S M L XL (circle one); Youth Size or Adult Size (circle one)
1) Why do you want your child to participate in IMP?

2) What areas would you like your child’s mentor to focus on for development (e.g., reading, social skills, self-esteem, etc.)?

3) What insights can you share about your child that might be helpful to the mentor (e.g., child’s interests, hobbies, strengths, personality traits, etc.)?

4) What activities/events for children and families would you like to see IMP sponsor?

5) Is there something that you would like to share with the program (e.g., community history or a hobby/talent with the participants, chaperone a local field trip, etc.)?

Parent/Guardian Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________