

MONTHLY



UPDATE

A Note from Our Team

Hey, it is cold outside! As we have dropped into some days with more snow and colder temps, some mentorships have found their way outdoors to enjoy the snow while others are seeking warmer activities. In both cases, it can feel more difficult to find fun things to do during these colder months, but community donor contributions have helped provide opportunities to participate in new winter fun experiences. We are currently celebrating some recent pairings that happened during the transition to 2023!

Continuing Connections: Meet Our New Mentor Coach!

So much of mentoring is about forming relationships and providing support for our mentees. Similarly, we want to extend the community and support system for our mentors; one way we do that is by creating opportunities for our mentors to work with a coach. This month, we caught up with Val Peck, our new Mentor Coach, for a Q&A session to learn more about her and what she's been up to since joining our team in August of 2022.

1. What is your role at IM?

A group of mentors meets with me each month to discuss best practices in mentoring and reflect on how to best build positive relationships with mentees, families, and the school community. We are a supportive crew with a shared passion for mentoring!

2. What interested you about joining the IM team?

For ten years, I was a high school and middle school teacher. I loved it! My favorite part about teaching was the meaningful relationships built with students. It was a joy to support kids as

they discovered their passions and grew to become more of their authentic selves. When I left the teaching profession, a guidance counselor from the school where I had most recently taught reached out to see if I would possibly be interested in connecting with a former student (a sophomore in high school at the time) who was experiencing some difficult life circumstances and had mentioned that she missed having me as her teacher. The former student and I were able to come together in a mentor-mentee type of relationship that has lasted to this day. That experience--for both me and the student--evidences the significant impact having an additional trusted adult can have on an individual as they navigate the teen years. It is an honor to have the opportunity to walk alongside mentors as they foster constructive relationships with their mentees.

3. What have been some of your favorite experiences so far with IM?

I enjoy being able to share the knowledge,

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Shout-out

To our social worker, Franny, who has been working to transition some of our processes for incoming mentors.



Announcements

Mentors:
Please let us know if you would like reimbursement for an activity with your mentee. During these winter months, we know it can be difficult to find experiences that are at little to no cost.



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skills, and experiences I gained while teaching, coaching, and mentoring in order to support others as they consistently connect with their mentees. It is an honor to be part of the process of fostering positive relationships between students and adults in the Madison community. Observing the rapport among the mentors as they encourage each other warms my heart.

4. What are you looking forward to in the coming year with IM?

Looking forward, I am excited to participate in topical studies and discussions with the mentors as we investigate methods to increase our effectiveness with mentees. We expect the mentees to learn and grow, and it is important that we model this ourselves by continuing to expand our knowledge and skills. It will be interesting to see how what we learn is able to positively impact the mentor-mentee relationships.

5. Apart from mentor coaching, tell us a little more about yourself. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I was born and raised in Appleton, WI, which is 30 miles south of Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers. I was raised in a home where everyone (mom, dad, and all kids) yelled encouragement at

the television in an effort to urge the Packers to victory. When I was young, I thought I would grow up to play football for the Packers. Shockingly, that didn't end up happening. Still, I did play basketball, volleyball, and soccer all through school. Now, I enjoy watching my nieces and nephews participate in their various activities. And I've coached some high school soccer along the way. Music also played a significant role in my upbringing. I sang in choir and played piano and saxophone. As an adult, I've continued to sing in choirs and am looking to resume playing an instrument in the coming year. I just haven't decided which one yet. Also, I didn't have any pets growing up, and I recently discovered the unending love of dogs by adopting an elderly (13 years old) pitbull. I love Fiona to pieces and do not want to ever live in a home without a dog!

Thank you for sharing with us, Val, and for all you do for Intentional Mentoring!



Interested in getting involved with Intentional Mentoring but not sure you have the skill set or the available time for coaching/mentorship? We still value your contributions! Consider monthly community outreach or helping to organize one of our events. Have questions about what help Intentional Mentoring could use or other ideas for ways you think you could help? Email us at katiemae@intentionalmentoringmadison.org.

Contact Us

Our Mission Statement

With guidance from coaches, mentors interact with school staff, community members, and families in order to strengthen the support network for students facing adversity.



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