

MONTHLY



UPDATE

A Note from Our Team

Thank you SO much to all of those who joined us for our ModPizza fundraiser night. We are thankful for the community of support. The funds will continue to help our mentorships. As we soak up this springtime weather and our mentees enter their last couple of months of school, they will have the opportunity to restart in-person learning if they choose. Our mentors will be working alongside mentees, families, and teachers to support this shift. We hope to continue to learn from this virtual year within the pandemic to grow closer as a community.

Learning through a Pandemic

This past year's pandemic has made us all get creative. We've had to shift at a moment's notice and relearn how to live our everyday lives in new ways. In many cases, the goal was to keep going, as much as possible, and to be flexible in the process. One of those areas was education, where all of a sudden schools, teachers, families, and students needed to figure out how to shift, stay positive, and continue to engage with learning opportunities.

Change isn't easy. Sometimes abrupt changes and unfortunate circumstances can cause confusion or fear, especially during a pandemic. We're so proud of our students for making it through this year of virtual learning, and now as we're transitioning back to more in-person

learning and see the summer break coming in the distance, we're reflecting on the challenges that we've seen and the successes our students have had throughout this school year.

In many ways, students are flexible. We've seen them going with the flow, adapting to this online learning model, and working toward success. Some students even found that they enjoy online learning because of its flexibility, uniqueness, and independence that it provides. Throughout this time, though, many students also struggled with motivation. Not seeing their friends each day or having their teachers in person was highly challenging for students. It was challenging for all of us not to see as many people; however,

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Shout-out

CONGRATS to STUDENTS & STAFF as they made transitions back to the building over the last many weeks.



Announcements

Congratulations to board member Franny Rosing and her husband, Ray, on their new baby: WALTER!

:)



Online

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especially for students who crave peer contact, this became a great barrier they had to overcome.

Another challenge for students became technology. While students tend to be pretty good with some new technologies that we adults don't have the best grasp on, learning new online programs and the expectations involved with those was a process this school year. The access to reliable Internet varied, and at times it was challenging for students to maintain a solid WiFi connection through the Zoom calls, classwork, homework, interactions, emails, etc. Communicating became more challenging as our students had to be extra diligent in checking emails and staying on top of their work electronically rather than having other physical reminders or people in person helping them to stay on track.

Throughout all of the new situations this school year, mentors have helped students in so many ways. These relationships have been invaluable as they continued to check in with their mentees, listen to them, and just

support them in what they needed. The social emotional support that mentors could provide was important for our students because they had that one extra adult in their lives who cares about them. At times, it was challenging to know how to help or what support to provide because everything this year was so new; however, we're so grateful for our mentors and how they have been there for our mentees through this challenging year. And our mentees have inspired us as well. Their resilience has been impressive, and it's been awesome to see them grow.

The transition back into the buildings has now begun. Some students are coming back in person while others are remaining virtual for the remainder of the school year. The hope is that students who are coming back can get reacclimated with our schools as they transition back into what will hopefully be a more normal fall. Here's to continued improvement in our current condition and the support we can provide one another along the way.

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.



Upcoming Events

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