

## Reflections for Teachers Considering Being a Mentor

I am committed to the philosophy of success for all students.	I can empathize with the problems and concerns of a beginning teacher.
I recognize the importance of providing assistance to a beginning teacher without imposing my individual style.	I feel I have the communication skills to communicate openly with a teacher I am helping.
I am a good listener.	I am comfortable with the curriculum I am teaching.
I believe a teacher can be effective using a variety of teaching strategies.	I would be a good role model for a beginning teacher.
I consider myself to be a collaborator who keeps an open mind and is able to provide constructive suggestions and ideas for consideration.	I am willing to commit some of my personal time, in addition to time provided during the school day, to support my responsibilities as a mentor.
I am interested in participating in PD opportunities that would develop my skills as a mentor.	I would be comfortable assisting a new teacher with an action plan for professional growth.
I am willing to assist my mentee in locating appropriate teaching resources.	I would be comfortable observing my mentee's class and providing feedback.
I believe professional growth occurs developmentally and individually over time.	I would be comfortable having my mentee observe my class and receive feedback.
I believe respecting confidentiality is critical in the mentor/mentee relationship.	I could provide my mentee with guidance and strategies for student behaviour management.
I believe that the mentor/mentee relationship can be mutually beneficial.	I could offer advice and support for parent communication.
I am able to express a positive set of values and beliefs concerning Catholic Education as a career.	I would be able to communicate effective teaching strategies to a new teacher.

## **An Effective Mentor is...**

### **Committed to Catholic education**

- integrates Catholic beliefs and values in the classroom
- demonstrates attitudes based on Catholic social teaching

### **Skilled at providing instructional support**

- coaches new teachers to enhance their performance
- engages in cooperative teaching, planning and modeling

### **Effective in interpersonal contexts**

- listens and communicates in a collegial manner
- recognizes the uniqueness of each mentoring relationship

### **A model of a continuous learner**

- searches constantly for better answers and effective solutions
- develops and experiments with new practices

### **Committed to the role of Mentor**

- models self-reflective practice
- communicates hope and optimism
- creates time in their schedule for mentorship activities

## **Why Be a Mentor? Thoughts from Experienced Mentors...**

"Working with my protégé has rejuvenated my love of teaching."

"The PD developed for mentoring actually helps you develop as a teacher....as a person."

"The biggest part of the learning process for me has been that the relationship is reciprocal. By collaborating we learn so much from each other."

"Being a mentor keeps me current. When I have to answer my mentee's questions it makes me ask, "Why am I doing what I'm doing?" In discussing philosophy, problems, or techniques with this new teacher, I find out what I really believe. That makes me a stronger person and a better teacher."

"Beginning teachers need a chance to learn what constitutes good practice with the help of accomplished colleagues instead of being forced to figure everything out for themselves."

"I love working with new teachers. I learn from them and try to make them see that teaching is a learning process. I feel that as a mentor, I am helping new teachers adjust to the rigorous life of a teacher, yet understand their importance in a child's life."

"More than anything, I want to see teachers stay in the profession so they, too, can enjoy the same benefits without the feeling of being lost, or alone, as I did starting out."

"When teachers share their unique talents, there is a sense of electricity in the air. The Mentor Program provides an environment for this excitement to occur. It brings teachers together to share and grow professionally."

"When I entered this profession I received tremendous support even though I was very overwhelmed. I truly believe that a support system can help teachers succeed and deal with all the demands of being a new teacher. Collaboration keeps me engaged, interested, and motivated and I hope to provide that for others."