

2020-2021

Student/Partner Alliance Mentee Handbook



Dear S/PA Students,

Welcome to Student/Partner Alliance! We are very happy to have you as part of our program and to get to know you over the next four years.

Due to COVID-19, we have adjusted our program slightly for this year. Our freshmen will not be matched with mentors at the moment until we can insure it is safe to resume in-person meetings. We want to make sure you will be able to create a meaningful connection with your mentor, so for now, we will be hosting some engaging and informational virtual events for you to attend.

Although our mentor matching process is temporarily on hold, we still want to prepare you for what to expect when we do match you with a mentor. This handbook is intended to help you and your parents better understand our program and our expectations. We hope that you will always feel comfortable to contact us with any questions or any concerns about anything. Your success and your safety are our top priorities.

Best wishes,

Margaret Momber

Executive Director

mmomber@studentpartneralliance.org

908-522-0405

WHAT IS S/PA?

Student/Partner Alliance is a scholarship and mentoring program. Our objective is to support you financially and with a mentor during your four years in high school.



WHAT TO EXPECT AS A S/PA STUDENT?

- A 4-year scholarship (Once you are admitted into our program, we agree to support you during your four years at high school as long as you work hard and remain at the school where you were admitted. You do not need to reapply each year).
- You will be matched with a mentor when it is safe to resume in-person meetings.
- You should expect to attend virtual S/PA organized events throughout the year.

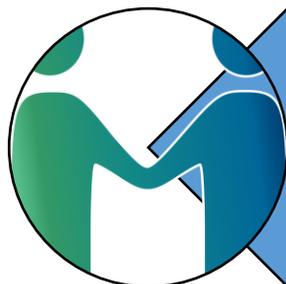
WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU



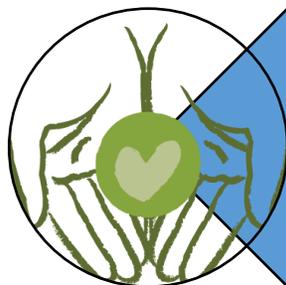
DECODING "PARTNER," "SPONSOR," & "MENTOR"



A sponsor is an individual, corporation or a foundation that provides the student with scholarship money so that he/she can attend school.



A mentor is a trusted guide; friend; listener; someone who will help you explore new opportunities; someone who will have good ideas about how to deal with difficult situations; someone who encourages you; and a couch/advisor



A partner is a combination of a sponsor and a mentor, providing scholarships funds and serving as a mentor.

WHAT IS A MENTOR?

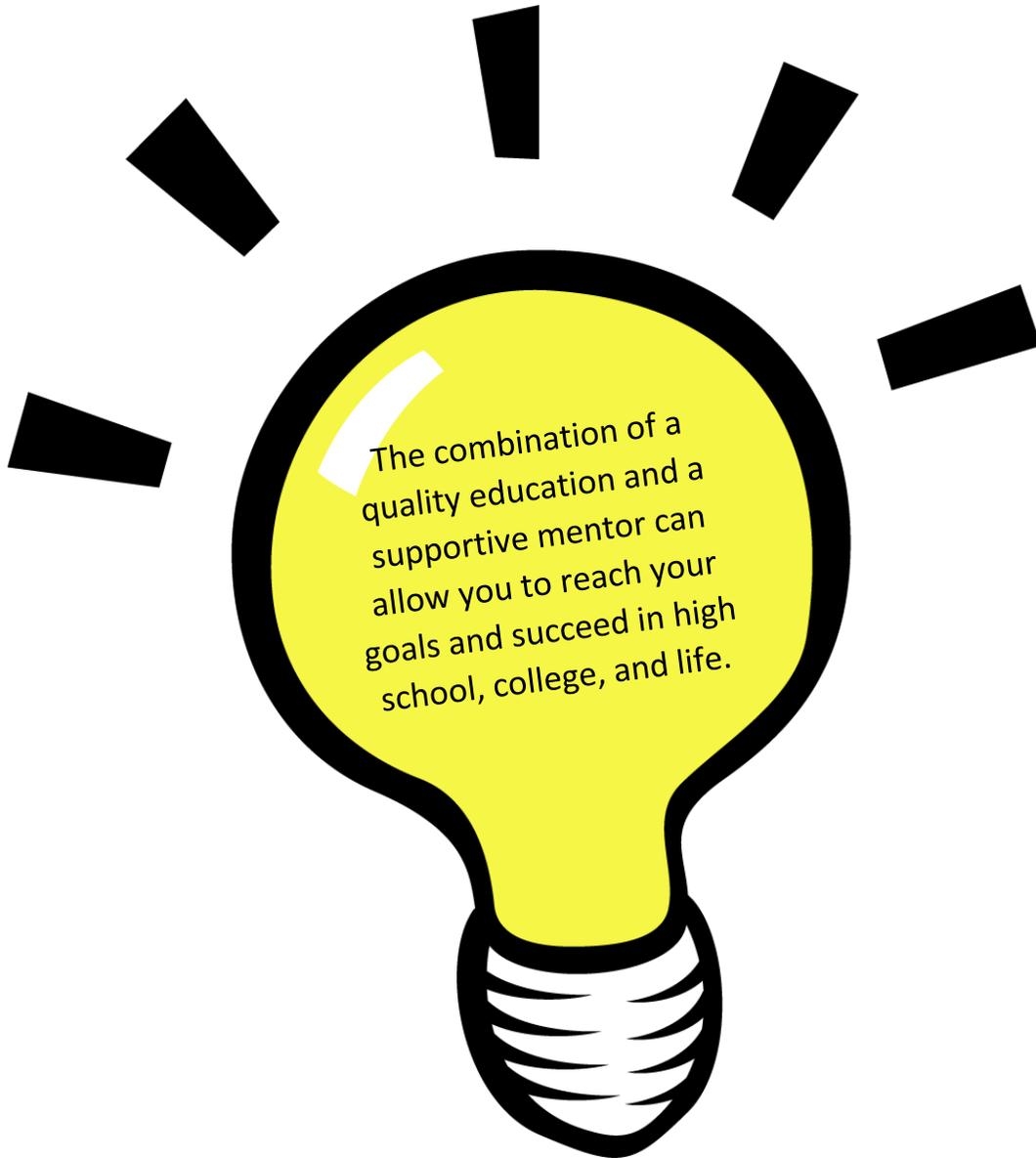
A MENTOR IS:

- ✓ A trusted guide and friend
- ✓ Someone who will listen to you
- ✓ Someone who will help you explore new opportunities
- ✓ Someone who will have good ideas about how to deal with difficult situations
- ✓ A Coach
- ✓ An Advisor
- ✓ Consistent and dependable
- ✓ A positive role model
- ✓ Someone who always puts your safety and well-being first

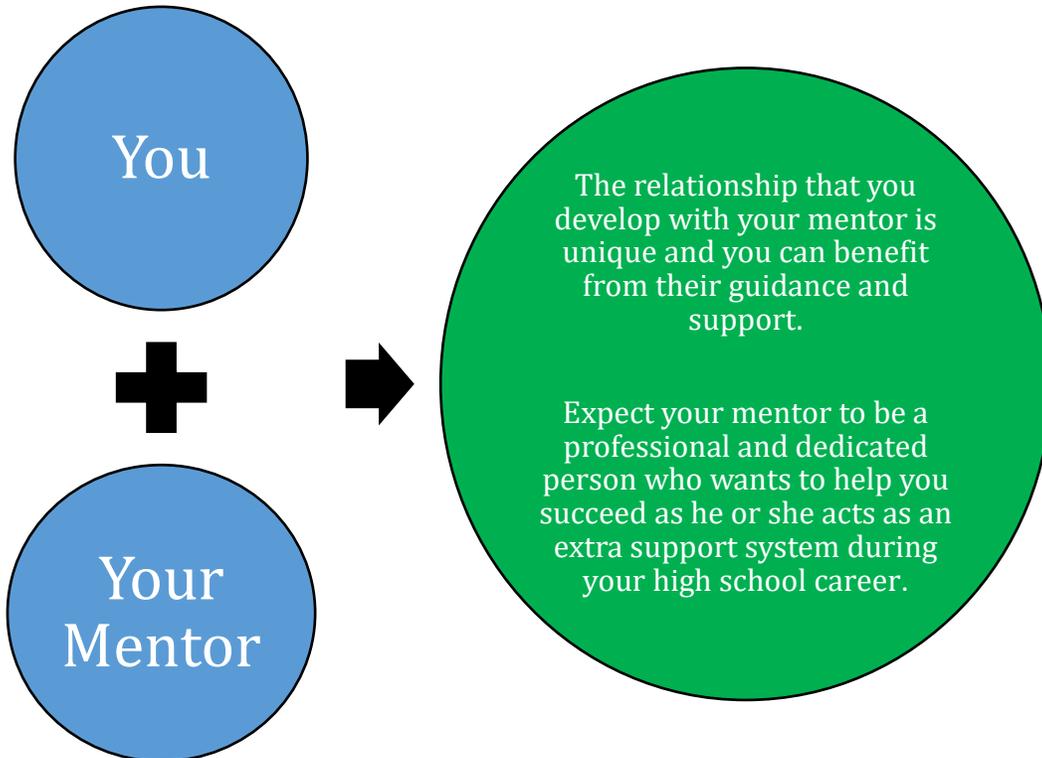
A MENTOR IS NOT:

- ✗ A parent
- ✗ A peer
- ✗ An "ATM" (students are never allowed to ask their supporters for money)
- ✗ Someone to constantly unload on
- ✗ A taxi-service
- ✗ A therapist
- ✗ A tutor

WHY MENTORING MATTERS



YOUR SAFETY IS OUR TOP CONCERN



If at any time, you feel that your mentor or partner is not behaving appropriately with you, please email mmomber@studentpartneralliance.org immediately.

GUIDE TO SUCCESS

High school can be a hard time, filled with new experiences and academic challenges. Our virtual informational events and your mentor can be helpful in navigating these challenges and serving as an extra point of support.



FRESHMAN YEAR:

- Attend all virtual S/PA events
- As you get used to your new school, stay organized and learn to manage your time efficiently as you make time for studying, family responsibilities and friends.



SOPHMORE YEAR:

- Attend all virtual S/PA events and regularly communicate with your mentor, if you have been matched with one.
- Find a club, sport, or hobby that you like and become active in it.
- Take a practice PSAT.



JUNIOR YEAR:

- Start thinking about college and speak with your guidance counselor about financial aid.
- Start preparing for the SAT/ACT, or take the SAT/ACT.
- Attend a virtual college fair and talk to your mentor about your college interests.



SENIOR YEAR:

- Attend the S/PA College Event
- Complete all of your financial aid paperwork and send in your applications.
- Speak with your mentor as you help determine which college is right for you.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank you for all your cooperation and efforts! We look forward to a great 4 years with you in our program!

Please email us if you have any questions or concerns!



"Because of Student/Partner Alliance, I was able to complete a high school that helped me grow academically and emotionally. Without the support of S/PA, attending SVA would not have been possible for me and my family..."

"I hope one day I will be able to help other students achieve their dreams just as you have helped me. The value of your support will always be treasured."