



Community Reading Buddies Program

Reading at grade level is an important progress indicator for student success! We are excited to engage our community in helping us meet that goal for every student. The Community Reading Buddies program will focus on students in 2nd and 3rd grade who would benefit from support to be grade level readers. By having a positive reading experience with a caring adult, our students will keep making progress in their reading skills and of course their enjoyment of reading!

Elementary schools will partner with At The Core “Adoptive Organizations” to implement a program that brings adult volunteers into the schools to read with 2nd and 3rd grade students.

The schools will be provided with a box of books, and a helpful handout to help guide Community Reading Buddies. The details of the program (schedule, number of reading buddies, etc.) will be determined by each school in conversation with their community partner.

Tips for successful partnerships:

For Businesses, Churches and other Organizations

1. Designate a contact person that your adopted school can call with questions, requests, and communication about scheduling and sign-ups.
2. Monthly check-in: Make an attempt to meet with your adoptive school’s principal and contact person at least monthly at the start of the school year to see how the partnership is going and make any adjustments that might be necessary.
3. Be as consistent as possible about scheduling and number of volunteers, and share your plans with the school. If plans change, be sure and let your contact person know!
4. Understand that schools are very busy places! Be patient and ask questions if you have them.

For Schools

1. Designate a contact person at your school who your adoptive organization can call with questions and who will communicate important information to the adoptive organization about program operations.
2. Monthly check-in: Make time to meet with representatives of your adoptive organizations at least monthly to communicate how the partnership is going and discuss if any adjustments are necessary.
3. Plan ahead for the volunteers’ arrival and make sure that everyone at your school who will be involved with the program (including teachers and students) knows what to expect.
4. Let partners know what to expect when they visit your school including where and how to sign in, and where to go to meet their students. Community volunteers need to feel welcome and appreciated, even when school is very busy!

Remember, it takes time to build relationships! And relationships make partnerships work.