

POUDRE PALS FAQ

Who are the Poudre Pals and what do they do?

Poudre Pals is a program which pairs a warm, accepting 11th or 12th grader with an elementary student, on a one-on-one basis, during school hours at one of our feeder elementary schools. This special relationship allows young children to share experiences, joys and anxieties. A Poudre Pal is a special friend who can help a child make good decisions and choose wise and safe ways to solve problems. Poudre Pals are role models and mentors who will help the child they are matched with to develop new behaviors and improve self-confidence, which will hopefully improve achievement in the classroom and relationships with other children. Counselors and teachers in our feeder elementary schools will match their children with our Poudre Pals. Poudre Pals will meet their students in locations chosen by staff members in the elementary schools. These meetings will not leave school grounds. Poudre Pals must provide their own transportation and they must meet with the child during the regular school day. The time for relationship building will be arranged cooperatively with the Poudre Pal and the elementary school staff. *The Poudre Pal volunteers their time and may earn credit for this experience through the PaCE program.* Poudre Pals is not a tutoring program.

How do students get involved?

Any 11th or 12th grader is eligible to be a part of Poudre Pals (10th grade students are not allowed into the program). **Interested students must complete the attached application and turn it in to Mr. Nash by MARCH 7th, 2011.** Applications will be screened and the remaining candidates will go through an interview process. After being selected, all Poudre Pals and their parents will be required to sign and hand in a contract signifying the seriousness of their role and commitment to the program. Poudre Pal girls may be matched with either boys or girls. Poudre Pal boys will only be matched with boys.

What criteria are used in selecting Poudre Pals?

Mr. Nash will use the application, teacher recommendations, and the interview to determine if the student meets the following criteria: dependable and reliable--able to follow through on commitments; a role model--a person of exceptional character, strong self-esteem and positive values; mature; enjoys young children and respects their needs; has the ability to listen effectively; is a strong enough student that participation in the program will not jeopardize their academic standing; they are not so busy with employment or extracurricular activities that they cannot remain committed to the Poudre Pals program; they are able to provide their own reliable transportation whenever necessary.

How will Pals arrange their visits to the elementary schools?

A FREE PERIOD WILL BE NECESSARY. *It is best that the free period be other than 7th or 8th period, since visits with all elementary Pals occurs during the elementary school day and their school day ends earlier.* It is possible to use a lunch period to visit with Pals if the school is close by but transportation to and from the school takes valuable time away from the visit. The best time to visit with the elementary school Pals will be on a block day (Tuesday through Friday at PHS) and when the PHS Pal's free period occurs.