



The Mentor Center



What does the Mentor Center Mean to You?

Everything

Today's presentation

Description

Impact

Essential Elements



ORIGIN

A COVID Response Innovation



Opened Jan 2021 to address
COVID-related needs:

Learning Loss
Mental Health

Continued to address long-standing
challenges:

Student engagement
Achievement gaps

LOGISTICS

What the Mentor Center is NOT

Not an afterschool program

Not a teen center

Not a tutoring program



Key Differences:

Part of the school system

Case management

Academic and mental health coequal priorities



The Basics



Drop-in support center

Serve all GFPS MS and HS students

Monday - Thursday
1 pm - 8 pm

Former clinic space on
edge of UND campus



Services Offered

Academic Support

Mental Health/Social Emotional Learning Support

Enrichment Programming

(Life Skills, Cooking, Art, Open Gym, Nature Walks, Mindfulness, etc.)

Free busing

Free snack/ meal

Free take-home food



Staffing

15 staff members (2 full-time)

- Administrative, Bus Driver
- Academic (Teachers and Tutors)
- Mental Health/Social Emotional Learning Specialists

Plus UND OT students, UND Student-Athletes, general volunteers

STUDENTS SERVED



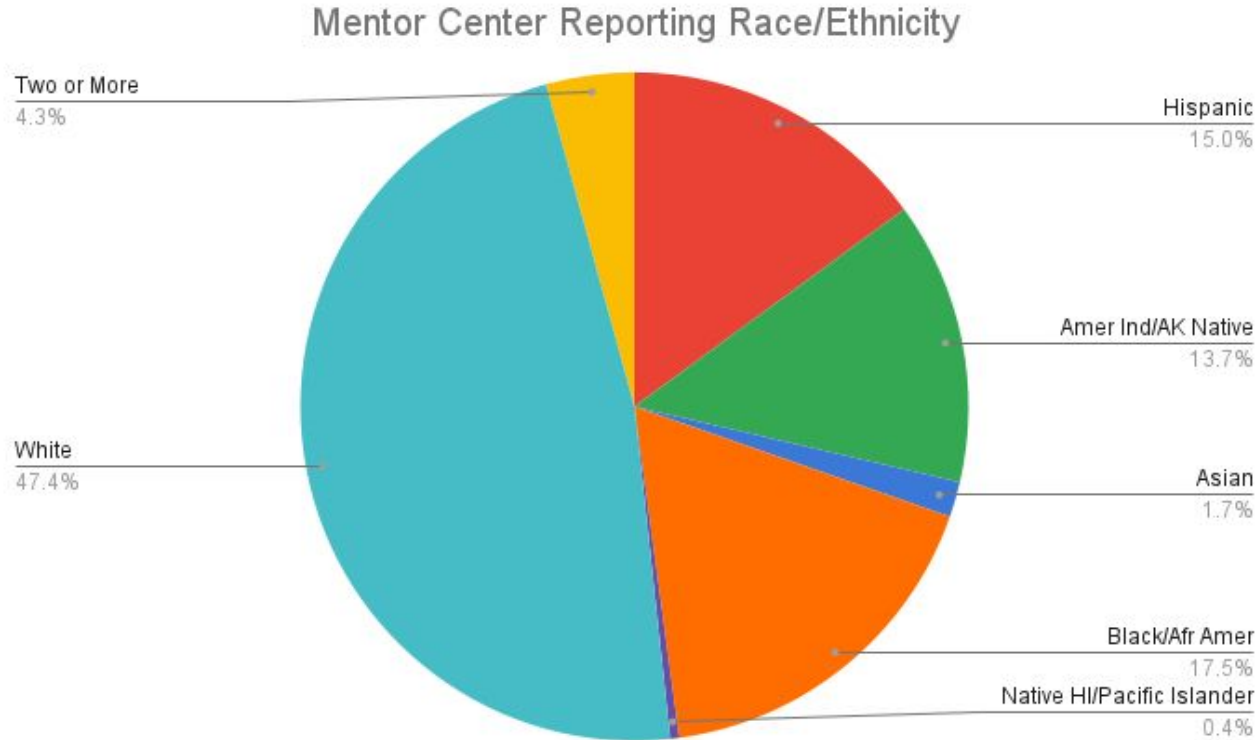
Attendance

300 Students/Year

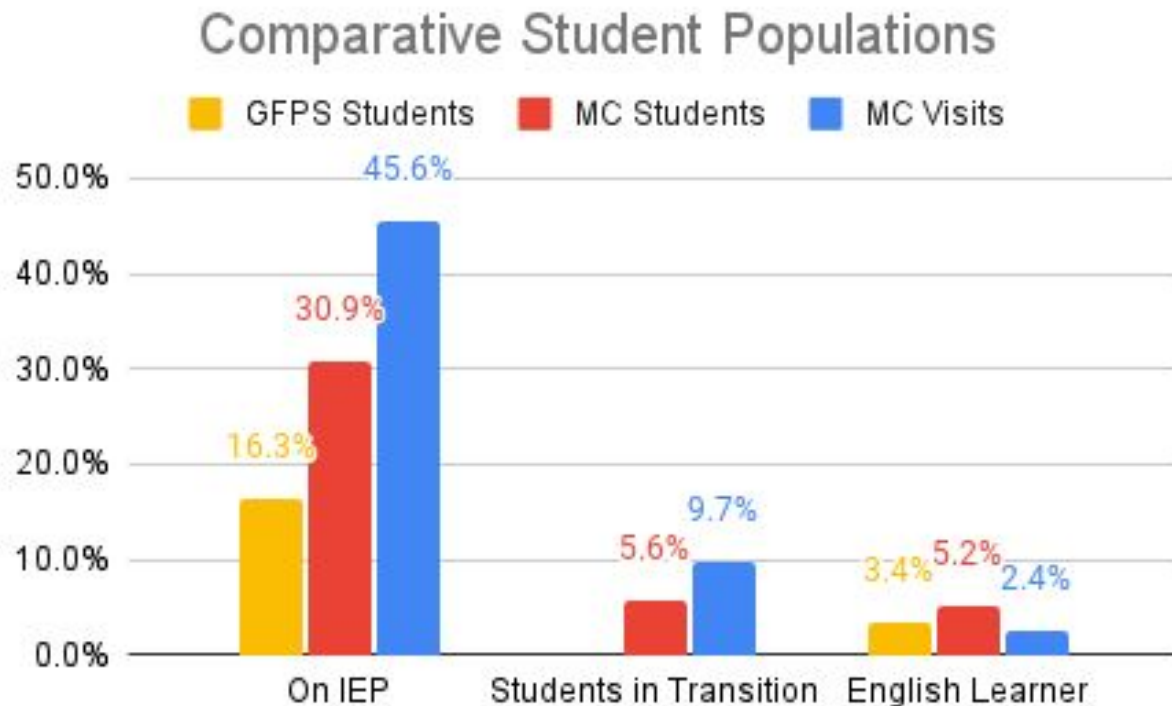
4,000 Visits/Year

Avg. Daily Attendance 28

2022/23 Demographics



2022/23 Demographics



OUR APPROACH

Our two-word job description:



IMPACT

Mental Health/SELS Impact

95% Because of the Mentor Center, my **positive feelings have increased.**

78% Because of the Mentor Center, my **challenging feelings have decreased.**



100% I can **find a trusted adult** at the Mentor Center.

100% The Mentor Center has helped me to have **more or stronger supportive relationships** in my life.

89% Because of the Mentor Center, I feel better able to **persevere through setbacks.**

Academic Impact

**GPA increase from first
attendance to final: 2.08%**

*"It helped me get a
structure and
routine going."*

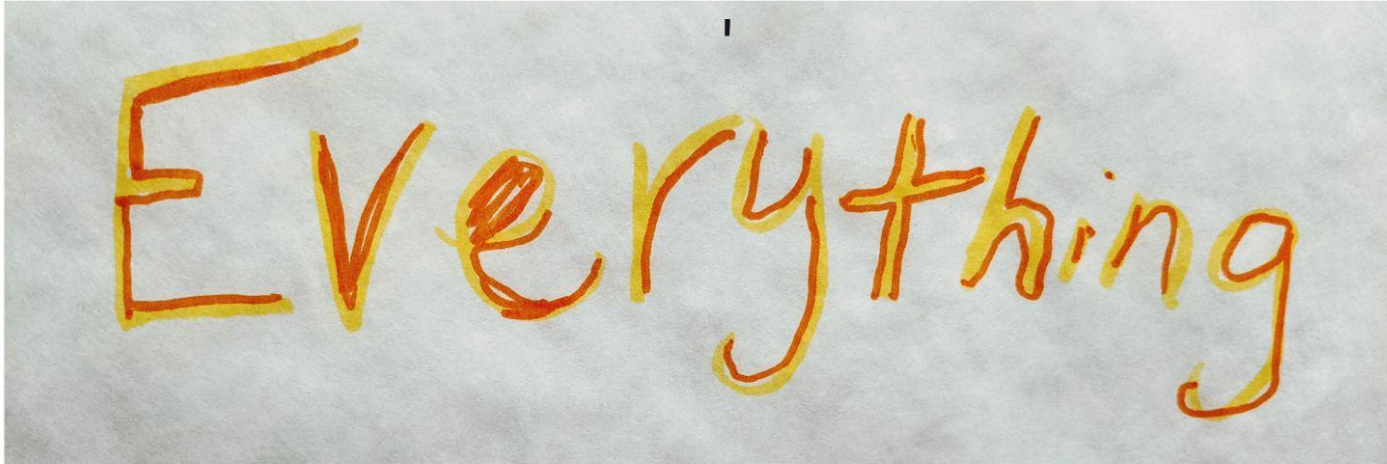
*"It makes me wanna
try at school."*

79% stated they **passed classes
they might not have passed**
without the Mentor Center.

Credit Recovery Option:
58 half-credit courses completed
last June with MC support

What's the outcome?

What does the Mentor Center mean to you?



Everything

PARTNERSHIPS

Supporters/Partners



Occupational Therapy



Fighting Hawks: 60 volunteers, 600 hours



[Video](#)

FUNDING



Budgets and sources

\$390,000 per year

2021/22: Governor's
Emergency Education Relief

2022-2024: ESSER

Looking at future grant support

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Key ingredients

Hospitality and welcoming space

Trauma-trained staff

Robust and nimble!

Plenty of outreach

Community
partnerships

Nonprofit leadership
background helpful

Assessment – lots of it and with a long view



RECOGNITION

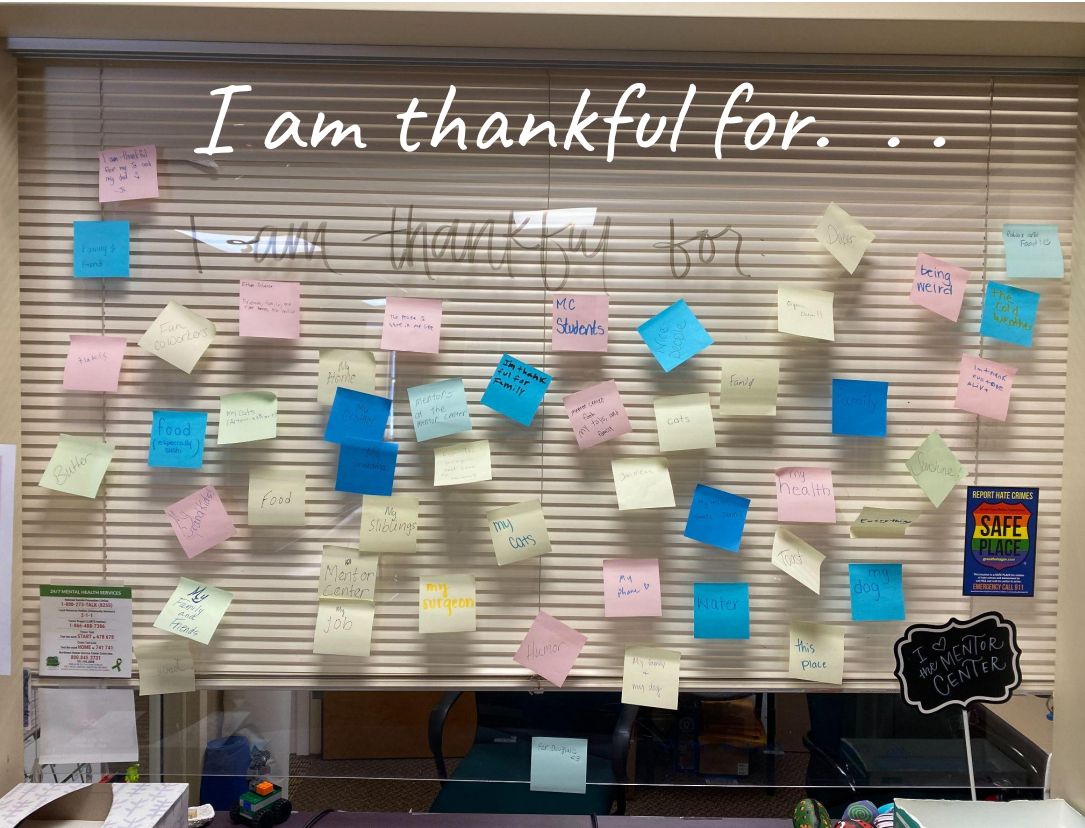
2021 Governor's InnovativeND Award



2023 National School Board Association Silver Magna Award



Most important recognition!





Reach out!

[Website](#)

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