

# DOINGWHATWORKS

 VIDEO  
4:48 min

[Full Details and Transcript](#)



## Treat Us as Your Own

Jefferson Davis High School, Texas  
April 2011

**Topic** DROPOUT PREVENTION

**Practice** ADULT ADVOCATES

### Highlights

- » The ninth-grade mentoring program connects students with a mentor who helps them stay on track with schoolwork and attendance and supports them in dealing with personal issues.
- » Students receive help with improving their study skills, being more responsible with attendance, keeping their school materials organized, and so on.
- » Freshmen participating in the program think mentors should create a trusting, compassionate relationship, be firm when needed, be a good role model, and treat the student as their own child.

**About the Site** Jefferson Davis High School  
Houston, TX

### Demographics

- » 89% Hispanic
- » 10% Black
- » 1% White
- » 92% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
- » 15% Special Education

(Houston Independent School District, District and School Profiles, 2009-10)

Jefferson Davis High School implements multiple strategies to ensure all students graduate fully prepared to pursue their postsecondary goals:

- » Staff use middle school student achievement and nonacademic outcome data to monitor students' progress toward graduation and postsecondary readiness, providing interventions for struggling students and those at risk
- » A ninth-grade mentoring program provides students with supportive adult relationships
- » Students can enroll in programs that provide tutoring, family support, college workshops, counseling, and dropout recovery success
- » To foster a sense of community among students, the school sets high expectations, holding students accountable, and celebrates their successes

## Full Transcript



 **00:05** Narrator: We asked these four freshmen at Davis High School to tell us about the ninth-grade mentoring program, how it has helped them, and their advice for mentors.

**Alexis**

 **00:14** The ninth-grade mentoring program at Davis is basically a program where the teachers help the students if they are failing or if they are missing class. They let them know and they tell them, “You know, you need to go to class” or “You’re failing math class” or something, and they keep you on track.

**Taylor**

 **00:36** The ninth-grade mentoring program is also where students can go to talk to their mentors about problems they might be having at home or at school. It helps with your schoolwork. It helps you get back on track if you fall off. It helps you pick up your grades. They make sure you get to class on time. They basically are just a big help for everything.

- Sydney**  **00:59** The way that the mentor program has helped me, it has helped me because now that I am in high school, I am on honor roll, I am passing my classes. In middle school, I was behind a little bit; now I am on top. It helped my classes, to make sure I go to all classes on time, not missing no days of school.
- Monica**  **01:18** My mentor, she helps me with my grades. Every time they drop, she tells me, sometimes she stays after school to help me bring my grades up. It's a great thing having a mentor because she's the person that's there for you every time you need her, or him. It's a great thing.
- Taylor**  **01:39** My mentor has helped me my ninth-grade year by helping me be more responsible because I have learned, he's talked to me and taught me how I have to be on top of my work in everything. Every time someone is not going to always be there and say, "You have to make sure, you have to do this." I will go to him and I will ask him, "Can I see my grades?" Or I will go and he will tell me, "Okay, you need to get some work from another teacher." He has helped me be more responsible on my own.
- Monica**  **02:06** I was asking my mentor to help me on my math homework, on algebra. She was like, "Okay, I can stay today, and I'm willing to stay all the time you want so I can help you pass your test." And she stayed with me for an hour and a half and we were studying, and then after that I passed my test and I was so happy.
- Taylor**  **02:29** When I first started the ninth grade, I felt like I didn't really have to do anything that much, because it was just the ninth grade. So I kind of started slacking off and then my grades went down. And then my mentor, he would always come to me, he was like, "Why you are making this grade? You can do better than that." And I didn't like him because I feel like he was just always bothering me always, always bugging me. I was like, "Why is he being mean to me?" And then once he started telling me that I can do better and I improved my grades, I realized it was because he cared, and he knew I can do better and

I knew, but he told me that I have to know that I can do good myself before I can do it, and that helped me a lot.

- Alexis**  **03:11** If I could give advice to a mentor or somebody that wants to be a mentor, I would say the student has to have trust with that mentor. Compassion is another good thing. Also being stern with that person, you know, you can't always just be lenient, "Oh, it's okay." Some students or kids need that.
- Monica**  **03:37** Well, any advice I can give to any person that wants to be a mentor is being a good role model for that person you want to mentor, being there for that person when they need you and treating them like your own kid, being there for them when they need you, help them bring their grades up, and if they have any problems, trying to help them resolve those problems they have.
- Sydney**  **04:03** Treat us as her own, like we [are] her own child, just be on it like she is her own child, stay on them to make sure we are passing our grades, to make sure we are doing what we got to do to pass, go to class on time, not missing days, go to after-school activities.
- Taylor**  **04:21** A mentor should be someone that we can trust, someone that we feel comfortable taking any of our problems to. If they come to us and just asking, "How was your day?" and just keep talking to us and telling us things that we want to hear, knowing they want to hear from us and want to see us do better would make us to be able to open up to them.