

To Whom It May Concern;

The purpose of this letter is to fully endorse and recommend the "Be The One" mentor program and Partners for Schools, who have been collaborating with the Nooksack Valley School District for a number of years.

Our district has a history of partnering with organizations that have missions that strongly overlap ours, with a focus on supporting students and families. Schools certainly cannot "do it alone" and must strategically partner with others in order to meet the diverse needs of students and families. The entry point of this partnership was in the area of mentoring. Ensuring that our students have access to a quality mentoring relationship matched perfectly Be The One's desire to provide "One Student. One Adult. One Hour". More specifically, they have supported the recruitment, training, and other supports for mentors in our Middle and High Schools. They have also assisted with mechanisms for fundraising.

Our mission at Nooksack Valley is to "Ensure the Success of All Students". We take this mission very seriously. Part of that mission is to provide the kinds of supports students need in order to be ready to learn and to close opportunity gaps in their lives. For some students, having a caring and skilled mentor, assists them with being ready to learn, ready to grow and ready to thrive. The specific needs of students are wide ranging. Some need a quality relationship with a caring adult. Others might need the wisdom and advice of someone they trust. Others still might just need someone to listen, to understand, and provide feedback and encouragement. Be The One mentors serve to do all of this, and more.

If you are a district like ours, who passionately desires for ALL students to thrive, Be The One can provide a key addition to your student success initiatives, and provide an amazing resource and community partner for your schools. Additionally, they provide an entry point for community members to give back and "love their neighbors" in ways that will have tangible and lasting positive effects for both student and mentor alike. The research is very clear about the success of mentoring, and we are seeing firsthand the significance of "One Student. One Adult". For these reasons and more, I highly recommend partnering with Partners for Schools/Be The One without reservations.

With Respect,



Mark Johnson
Superintendent of Schools