

Commonly asked questions about school ministry at First Church

1. ***When was Park Partnership started?*** March 29, 2006
2. ***How do you decide what to do for your school?*** Ask the principal for ideas of what are their greatest needs, then go from there
3. ***How do you fund the ministry?*** There is no church budget for this ministry. However, there is a percentage of profits from Mead's plus income from the tip jar. Libby's salary is paid by the church budget.
4. ***Who serves on the ministry team?*** Volunteers, people who have a heart for children and families, especially those in our neighborhood. It is helpful to have some of the folks with a background in public education.
5. ***How are tutor and mentor volunteers trained?*** Several years ago we had the trainer come from the school district to an evening meeting where prospective volunteers gathered for the training.. Then Libby was given permission to do the training. All volunteers have to fill out paperwork for background checks with the school system. In addition, tutors from our church must have current Safe Gatherings training.
6. ***What are some key points to remember?*** Not everyone wants to work directly with the children but most church members have a concern for the children. Be sure to provide opportunity for all people to be involved, whether by giving contributions which will be used to purchase what is needed, or doing work at the school but not directly with the children, or in some other capacity. Keep the ministry fresh and in front of the congregants.
7. ***What about confidentiality?*** It is important to remember that all children have the right to privacy. Do not repeat stories a child shares unless you share it with the teacher because you have a concern. If a volunteer has a concern about something at the school, they should have someone on the church staff with whom to share this unless they feel comfortable visiting with the principal. Volunteers are not there to criticize the child or their family or culture. This is not helpful. We are also not welcome to preach in the schools, but we can share Christ's love through our actions.
8. ***What are our goals at Park?***
 - a. To increase student achievement and self esteem
 - b. To support the staff in any way possible
 - c. To provide school supplies and uniform pieces for the students.