

How To H.U.G.: A Guide For Volunteers **Help Us Greet!**



Goals:

- ★ Welcome new members to our community in an intentional way.
- ★ Provide guidance, resources, and support as requested.
- ★ Build and strengthen the Dale Street School community.

How to H.U.G.

As a H.U.G.er, your role is to invite connection and friendship while honoring boundaries. H.U.G. volunteers serve as friendly, welcoming contacts for new families. You are encouraged to offer support and serve as a resource while making it clear that new families can choose how much contact they would like. Please remember, you are not expected to serve as counselors or social workers. If a family asks for support that feels outside your comfort zone or role, don't hesitate to reach out to Mr. Grenham for help.

Process

H.U.G. volunteers will be matched with families as new families join the Dale Street community. You will receive an email from our Guidance Counselor, Ms. Lindsey Warner; one of our secretaries, Mrs. Gilberti or Mrs. Malmquist; or our H.U.G. Connector, Alice Jreige, introducing you to a new family. We ask that you reach out to your assigned family within three days. If the timing isn't right for you, just let us know and we'll make another match. If you do not receive a response within three days of your outreach, please inform us so we can follow up.

Expectations

Please send a welcoming email introducing yourself as a Dale Street parent and H.U.G. volunteer. Let the family know you're happy to be a resource and share your contact information (email and phone number). You might also include: How long you've been at Dale Street and/or in Medfield, Your child(ren)'s grade(s), and A brief offer to answer any questions or provide guidance. If they're open to conversation, you can ask about their move to Medfield, their family, and any areas where you might be helpful. You're welcome to suggest meeting in person, but it is not required.

Final Thoughts

We believe personal connections are the heart of a strong school community. A smile, a kind word, or an offer to help can go a long way in making someone feel welcome. Your efforts as a H.U.G. volunteer will extend far beyond the families you are matched with, and your kindness will help shape a more connected and compassionate community. Thank you for considering this meaningful role.

Helpful Tip

You are not expected to have all the answers! It may be helpful to guide families to the following local resources.

Steve Grenham

Principal, Dale Street School sgrenham@email.medfield.net (508) 359-5538

Lindsey Warner

Guidance Counselor; Dale School lwarnar@email.medfield.net (508) 359-5538

Alice Jreige

H.U.G. Connector; Alice.Jreige@gmail.com (781) 534-4175