

**Facts About
Newton's One-to-One Program
457 Walnut St., Newton, MA 02460
617-315-8733**

The One to One program has been in operation since 1972 as part of the Newton Public Schools. Young children are matched with high school volunteers for the school year. Matches are arranged by mid-November and the program runs through the end of May. The high-schoolers, from both Newton North and Newton South, receive academic credit for their participation in this program. In addition to classroom assignments, the mentors are required to visit with their "little brother" or "little sister" for at least two hours per week excluding school vacations and holidays. **This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be planning for both virtual and socially distant visits.**

The high school students must attend an orientation/training program and then a weekly group supervision with the program coordinator or staff professionals. At these meetings, they share ideas and gain insights into child development. The Program Coordinator, Rebecca Young, or her staff make an effort to have individual contact with every family in the program but especially new families. This direct contact will provide a more comfortable and informed relationship, which should allow us to better meet your child's needs in the year to come. Regular phone contact between coordinator and parent/guardian is encouraged and necessary throughout the year.

The matching of your child and a "big brother" or "big sister" is arranged with consideration given to shared interests, available free time and the transportation available to the teenager. The weekly visits are arranged between the teenage mentor and mentee's family at a time convenient for all. This time may vary from week to week.

Once matched, parents should make sure they do not schedule other activities for their child at times which make the match unworkable knowing the teen's scheduling limitations. A list of suggested activities is included below. The pairs travel together in the following ways: walking, MBTA, and buses. **Unlike prior years, travel by car is not permitted this school year due to social distancing requirements.** Acceptable modes of travel for your child should be discussed between you and the "big brother/sister".

Please fill out the application completely, sign and date all permission slips. Please return this as soon as possible via email. A mentor will not be matched with your child until all permission slips are completed fully, signed and returned to the program coordinator.

****It is our goal to match all applicants, though we are not able to guarantee this. It depends on the number of mentors and applicants and finding the "right match."**

Send application to:

Via e-mail: Please scan and email the entire completed application after signing it.

Email it to: rebecca_young@newton.k12.ma.us

After we receive your completed application we will be in touch with you by phone. Please contact Rebecca Young at 617-315-8733 and leave a message with further questions.

Newton's One-to-One Program

APPLICATION

**Please answer every question fully! Your answers are necessary for proper matching.
Please contact your school social worker if you need help filling out this application.**

1. _____
Child's Name
2. _____
Date of Birth
3. _____
Address w/ zip code
4. _____
Parent/Guardian (first and last)
5. _____
Relationship
6. _____
e-mail address
7. _____
Cell Phone #
8. _____
Home Phone #
9. _____
Work Phone #
10. _____
Parent/Guardian (first and last)
11. _____
Relationship
12. _____
e-mail address
13. _____
Cell Phone #
14. _____
Home Phone #
15. _____
Work Phone #
16. Married _____ Divorced _____ Single _____ Widowed _____
17. _____
*note if there is a second household address (and when child lives there)
18. _____
Languages spoken in the home
19. _____
Grade and School your child currently attends
20. _____
Classroom teacher
21. Are there aspects of your child's or family's identity that would be helpful to know for the matching process.

22. Please list siblings
- | Name | Age | Grade Level | School |
|-------|-------|-------------|--------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
23. Note additional people living in the home: _____

Getting to Know Your Child

What do you hope your child will gain from having a teenage mentor?

Describe the areas in which your child needs support.

What are you hoping the teen and your child will do together each week?

Describe your child's strengths.

Teen mentors and the children they are matched with might go out in small groups together as the year progresses. How does your child do in small groups versus one to one?

What are your child's **favorite** activities and interests? (Check out our attached list to help you)

Describe as best as you can your child's typical behaviors and manner in which s/he interacts and get along with others. (For example – J. is a whirlwind. S/he has trouble taking turns and is a poor loser. She loves to be with people and makes friends easily. Or.... M. is very quiet and has trouble asking for help. S/he will rarely give his/her opinion and tends to prefer being with one person rather than being in a group.)

Your Child's Health

Does your child have any food allergies? Does your child need to restrict their activity in any way? Does your child have a weight problem and have you put any restrictions on what they are supposed to eat? Does your child have any other allergies? Please describe all that apply.

What household pets do you have as some teens are very allergic and/or fearful? Does your child have an allergy to pets and/or anxiety around animals? What type?

Does your child have a disability/health problem of any kind? Please describe the necessary accommodations needed. What accommodations, if any, does your child receive at school?

Is there any other info about your child that you would like us to know about?

Your Child's Schedule

What regular weekly commitments that are after school or on weekends (including family commitments) does your child have? Specific Time, Day, and Length are helpful ? (Examples – Church, Hebrew School, lessons, after school program, sports – games and practices) **Please be as complete as possible for the period including Mid-November through May.**

If your child is in an after school program, would you permit the teen mentor to pick up your child on occasion from after care to spend their weekly time together? Which days would this work on?

Does your child live between more than one household? Please share specific times when your child lives in a different household and would not be able to see their “Big Brother/Sister”?

If your child sees this parent at a regular time each week, does this parent know you are applying for this program? Is s/he supportive of the idea?

Please list all times each week which might work for your child to see a big brother/sister. Your listing a time does not assume that your child will be available at that time every week but most often s/he would be. During the matching process, we make sure that a mentor and your child have a minimum of two options each week when their schedules would allow them to set up their weekly meeting together. Knowing all the times your child is available helps me with making quality matches. Once matched and when you see the workable times for the match to get together, please honor this commit to making weekly visits work.

(Examples – Monday 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Saturday all day except when basketball game is scheduled, etc)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

******Please remember that matching does not happen until mid-November.**

Newton's One-to-One Program

PERMISSION SLIP

SEND TO: Rebecca Young
NEWTON'S ONE TO ONE PROGRAM
457 WALNUT ST.
NEWTON, MA 02460

E-MAIL TO: Rebecca_Young@Newton.k12.ma.us

I GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR _____ TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN
NEWTON'S ONE TO ONE PROGRAM FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021. I HAVE READ THE
PACKET OF INFORMATION CAREFULLY AND AM AWARE OF HOW THE PROGRAM OPERATES
AND WHAT ACTIVITIES MY CHILD MAY PARTICIPATE IN WITH THEIR ONE TO ONE MENTOR.

I ALSO GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY CHILD'S TEACHER TO BE INTERVIEWED BY HIS/HER BIG
BROTHER/SISTER.

PICTURES AND VIDEOS ARE OFTEN TAKEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND ARE USED TO
HIGHLIGHT THE PROGRAM IN THE LOCAL PRESS OR FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES IN
VIDEOS USED TO EDUCATE TEACHERS OR RECRUIT TEEENAGERS. I GIVE MY PERMISSION
FOR MY CHILD TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED AND ANY SUCH IMAGES TO BE USED.

Check here for photo permission: _____

SIGNATURE

RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD

DATE

Newton's One-to-One Program

PERMISSION SLIP FOR IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

The Newton Public Schools is working in partnership with and under the guidance of the Massachusetts Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, along with other state and local agencies to implement the One-to-One Mentoring program during the 2020-2021 school year. Though virus transmission risk reduction measures are required, NPS cannot guarantee that your child will not be exposed to or become infected with COVID-19 while participating in this program.

This year we will be planning for both virtual and socially distant visits with direction from the Newton Public Health Department. If at any point during the 2020-2021 school year, Newton Public Schools close due to the public health emergency, mentoring visits will shift completely to virtual mentoring activities.

Please read the following information carefully and check the box of your selected option(s) and corresponding releases that apply. Note that you may select both in-person and virtual permissions to create a "hybrid" mentoring experience.

Socially Distanced Mentoring Activities:

We recommend outside activities with required social distancing of 6 feet distance and facemasks at all times. For example, spending time in mentor or mentee backyards, going for walks or hikes, bike riding, visiting local parks. If done safely with hand washing/sanitizer, socially distant (maintaining 6 feet distance at all times) picnics or outside games may be an option. It is not recommended that pairs spend time indoors, including in each other's homes. Transportation by car is not permitted.

Virtual Mentoring Activities:

Mentoring pairs can share a variety of engaging and fun online activities through platforms such as Zoom, FaceTime and Google Meets. Mentoring pairs can play games, do shared crafts, watch movies or shows together, scavenger hunts and have meaningful and fun conversations.

Permission for in-person socially-distanced mentoring activities:

- ☐ I hereby give permission for my child to participate in in-person socially-distanced mentoring activities.
- ☐ By selecting this option, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that my child may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 while my child is attending/participating in any in-person socially-distant mentoring activities. I further understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of my child and/or others, including Newton Public Schools personnel. I voluntarily agree to assume the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any such exposure or illness in connection with my child's attendance/participation in any in-person socially-distant mentoring activities.
- ☐ On my behalf, as well as on behalf of my minor child, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless Newton Public Schools/the City of Newton, its employees, agents, and

representatives, of and from all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to the exposure to or infection with COVID-19. I understand and agree that this release includes any claims or losses based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the NPS, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after attending and/or participating in any in-person socially-distant mentoring activity.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO INFORMATION ABOVE AND AM AWARE OF HOW THE PROGRAM OPERATES AND WHAT **IN-PERSON** ACTIVITIES MY CHILD MAY PARTICIPATE IN WITH THEIR ONE TO ONE MENTOR.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Relationship

Permission for virtual mentoring activities:

- ☐ I hereby give permission for my child to participate in virtual mentoring activities.
- ☐ I acknowledge and understand that mentoring activities may take place via a virtual platform such as Google or Zoom or FaceTime. While this One-to-One Mentoring has an assigned faculty member to oversee the program, I understand that mentoring visits will not be supervised by a faculty member or representative.
- ☐ I have reviewed the [Newton Public Schools' Expectations of Students and Families for Appropriate Virtual Technology Use](#) and the [District's Acceptable Use Policy](#). I understand that there may be inherent risks associated with participation in virtual mentoring activities. I further understand and agree that my/my child's image and voice will be transmitted over the internet, into the homes of other students and staff, and that NPS, while taking measures to secure transmission, cannot guarantee or warrant complete confidentiality of my/my child's voice or image while participating in virtual mentoring activities.
- ☐ I hereby forever release and discharge the City of Newton, and its departments, officers, employees, agents and representatives, including Newton Public Schools (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Newton") from any and all claims, demands, losses or expenses of whatever kind or nature in which my child or I, individually or on behalf of my child, may have or acquire arising out of or resulting from, directly or indirectly, his/her virtual participation in virtual mentoring activities during the 2020-2021 school year.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO INFORMATION ABOVE AND AM AWARE OF HOW THE PROGRAM OPERATES AND WHAT **VIRTUAL** ACTIVITIES MY CHILD MAY PARTICIPATE IN WITH THEIR ONE TO ONE MENTOR.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Relationship

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Newton's One-to-One Mentoring Program Program Rules 2020-21

Dear Parents of high school mentors and mentees,

Socially Distanced Mentoring Activities:

We recommend outside activities with required social distancing of 6 feet distance and facemasks at all times. For example, spending time in mentor or mentee backyards, going for walks or hikes, bike riding, visiting local parks. If done safely with hand washing/sanitizer, socially distant (maintaining 6 feet distance at all times) picnics or outside games may be an option. It is not recommended that pairs spend time indoors, including in each other's homes. Transportation by car is not permitted.

Description of Virtual Mentoring Activities

Mentoring pairs can share a variety of engaging and fun online activities through platforms such as Zoom, FaceTime and Google Meets. Mentoring pairs can play games, do shared crafts, watch movies or shows together, scavenger hunts and have meaningful and fun conversations.

Rules and Requirements for In-Person Socially-Distanced Activities:

- 1) **Self Health Assessment.** All students (mentors and mentees) must complete a self health assessment before any in-person meetings. If your answer to any of the following questions is "yes," stay home and do not attend your scheduled meeting.

Do you/your child have any of the following symptoms?

- Fever (100F or higher), chills, shaking chills
- Cough (*not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough*)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache (*when in combination with other symptoms*)
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Fatigue (when in combination with other symptoms)
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (*not due to other known causes, such as allergies and when in combination with other symptoms*)

Have you/your child been told by a public health official to isolate or quarantine?

In the last 14 days, have you/your child traveled anywhere that isn't on the Massachusetts [list of lower-risk states](#) and did not get a valid negative PCR test (no longer than 72 hours before returning or after your arrival)?

If your answer to any of these questions is 'yes' STAY HOME AND DO NOT COME TO The Scheduled Meeting.

2) **Face Coverings.** All students (mentors and mentees) must wear face coverings at all times during any in-person, socially-distanced meetings. In accordance with MA Department of Public Health and CDC guidelines face coverings must:

- Cover the nose and mouth
- Fit securely and comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops • Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered without damage or change of shape
- Be made of at least two layers of material
- Not have an exhalation valve or vent

(Please note: most scarves, bandanas, and gaiters do not comply with the above requirements)

3) **Physical Distancing.** All students (mentors and mentees) must keep a distance of at least 6 feet at all times during any in-person, socially-distanced visits. Arrangements should be made to meet in outdoor locations which allow for the appropriate distance to be maintained.

4) **Transportation.** Many questions arise every year concerning the transportation of both the young children and the teens on their weekly outings. This year, travel by car is not permitted, due to social distancing restrictions.

5) **Handwashing and Hygiene.** All students (mentors and mentees) will wash/sanitize their hands frequently throughout in-person socially-distanced visits. Students will perform hand hygiene upon arrival to their meeting, before eating, after using the bathroom, after blowing your nose/coughing/sneezing, before putting on and taking off masks/face coverings, before and after touching shared items, and before departing from their meeting. Students should always avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

6) **Stay home when sick.** Students and staff who are sick should not attend an in-person meeting. Students and families are expected to use the above self health assessment tool (section 1) prior to each visit. The document will not be collected by school personnel but rather is meant to be a personal tool.

Rules and Requirements for Virtual Mentoring Activities:

The [District's Acceptable Use Policy](#) and the [Newton Public Schools' Expectations of Students and Families for Appropriate Virtual Technology Use](#) apply to virtual learning activities, including on school-issued devices, networks, and online educational tools. For more information on school policies and procedures, please see: <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2902>. Please read and understand each document prior to engaging in virtual mentoring activities, and acknowledge your understanding below.

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand and agree to the Mentor and Mentee Rules and Expectations.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date_____

Signature of Student Mentor _____

Relationship_____

Date_____

Newton's One-to-One Program

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

JUMPING IN THE LEAVES
HOPSCOTCH
SLEDDING
SNOWBALL FIGHTS
SNOW FORTS, SNOWMEN, AND SNOWANGELS
ICE SKATING/MAKE YOUR OWN RINK
FISHING
ROLLER SKATING
ROLLERBLADING
TAKING A WALK
WALKING A DOG
HIKING
BOWLING
KITE FLYING
BIKE RIDING
GOING TO THE PLAYGROUND
FEEDING THE DUCKS
EXPLORING
JOGGING
DOING CRAFTS PROJECTS
PICNICKING
HOMEWORK
MAKE BELIEVE/STORY TELLING
HELP WITH A SCHOOL RESEARCH PROJECT
SCHOOL PROJECT
PRACTICE OR PLAY OUTSIDE SPORTS
GO TO OUTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS EVENTS OR
PHOTOGRAPHY
MAKE A VIDEO
JUMP ROPE
BOARD GAMES
FANTASY FOOTBALL
VIDEO GAMES
PLAY ON THE COMPUTER
DRAW
WASH THE CAR
SHOVEL SIDEWALKS TO MAKE MONEY
ROCK CLIMBING

PLACES TO GO

LOCAL PARKS AND WALKING PATHS
LOCAL PLAYGROUNDS
BOSTON COMMON
FREEDOM TRAIL
DRUMLIN FARM, LINCOLN