

Piedmont Identity and Affinity Mentors

We are the official **Piedmont Affinity and Identity Mentor Program** designed to bring Piedmont and Millennium High School students from similar cultural and ethnic backgrounds together with their elementary peers at Havens, Beach, and Wildwood as well as Piedmont Middle School (PMS.)

We introduce conversations around identity, culture, and ethnicity in a gentle and age-appropriate way with the use of books, videos, music, art, and inspirational role models. Our mentors are creative and committed members of our high school community. Meetings are a combination of virtual and in-person - depending on the comfort level of those involved.

We emphasize community building in a safe and nurturing environment so students get to really know their mentors as well as each other. Our students LOVE their time with their mentors.

Here are two videos about our Mentor Program: (Copy Paste In Browser)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NRPy3hnns&t=1s>

[mentorVideo.mp4](#)

A Few Fun Facts:

- This program is **voluntary** for mentees and parents are the ones to choose to enroll their child for participation.
- We hold bi-weekly meetings that are fun, engaging and age appropriate.
- Groups are cohorted by age and cultural and ethnic affinity.
- This program runs Sept to May with the month of December off.
- Mentors are HS volunteers trained to use a circle conversation format. Sessions are monitored by Jean Takazawa and Ina Bendich, our two adult coordinators. Feedback is provided to mentors at the conclusion of each session.
- Mentors also attend ongoing training sessions to share resources and build their skills and toolbox. Community service credit is available to reward them for their commitment to this program.

