

wits WORKPLACE MENTORING

working in the schools

Started in 1999, Workplace Mentoring is a year-long literacy mentorship program for fourth to eighth grade Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students. Once a week after school, students are transported to a corporate office to meet one-on-one with their mentor for shared reading and homework support.



PROGRAM LOGISTICS

- Program takes place weekly for one hour during the after-school hours from October-May
- A WITS program staff member is on site each week to facilitate program and support student-mentor pairs
- WITS and our corporate partners provide the books, materials, and space for program
- Student-mentor pairs build a meaningful relationship over the course of a school year and share the joy of reading and learning together

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

- Mentors commit to participating either weekly or every-other-week for the entire school year
- Mentors attend a mandatory one-hour orientation before program begins and occasional workshops throughout the year
- Mentors commit themselves to WITS' values:
 - Community
 - Consistency
 - Empowerment

“What is special about your relationship with your mentors, you get to hang out with them and they're cool and they're good readers who like to do activities and they help with homework.

WITS STUDENT

“We did a lot of reading and learned lots of new words together, but I was most happy to offer a listening ear when someone's grandmother was ill, when parents were traveling and the student was worried about them, and when the student had something they were proud of and wanted to share.

WITS MENTOR

For more information email WITS Program Director, Ellen Werner, ellen@witschicago.org.