

Cloud Coach

2018 Program Recap

Powered by  bestprep

Strengthening student motivation to succeed in school and beyond.

PROGRAM IMPACT



1,023
students



28
teachers



4
schools



1,097
volunteers



12,758
volunteer hours



“Strong ties are built between students and mentors through email exchanges. The students’ faces light up when visiting the mentors’ work locations, and the mentors love sharing life experiences.”

-Chris Gensch, Wells Fargo Volunteer

PROGRAM RESULTS

- **84%** of students said that the program helped them understand that their actions today will impact their future.
- **90%** of students said that they are now thinking more about their plans after school.
- **90%** of mentors said they would participate in Cloud Coach again if given the opportunity.

Cloud Coach: BestPrep's Newest Program

Cloud Coach is an eight-week one-on-one online mentoring program between students from an entire 9th grade class and mentors from a local corporation. Aimed at helping students identify their aspirations and set goals, Cloud Coach takes a directed approach at strengthening student motivation.



Students from Como Park Senior High School visited their mentors at Travelers Insurance for lunch and an interactive tour

FUNDING PARTNERS

3M Foundation
Cargill, Inc.
Carlson Family Foundation
Firefly Scientists Foundation
General Mills Foundation
MN Timberwolves Fastbreak Foundation
Securian Foundation
The WEM Foundation
Thomson Reuters
Thrivent Financial Foundation
Travelers Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota

Thank you to all of the funding partners and individual donors that helped make Cloud Coach possible!

THANK YOU!

BestPrep is grateful to the principals, educators, and administration that helped make Cloud Coach a reality!

North High School
Shawn Harris-Berry, Principal
Torrey Lau, STEM Coordinator
Nafeesah Muhammad, Educator

Washburn High School
Rhonda Dean, Principal
Michael O'Connor, Asst Principal
Shannon Tenner, Asst Principal

Como Park Sr High School
Theresa Neal, Principal
Rashmi Vashisht, Asst Principal

Washington Technology
Mike McCollor, Principal
Shanie Xiong, School Counselor
Mike Krech, Success Coach

“Cloud Coach enriches the lives of both the student and mentor. As the weeks progress, you can see the relationships start to flourish, and the conversations become authentic and genuine.”

**-Tamra Nicholas-Nelson,
Securian Financial Volunteer**

“Our teachers were impressed with how engaged our students were in communicating with the mentors. The students were amazed that the professionals actually took the time to email with them.”

**-Dr. Mike McCollor, Principal,
Washington Technology Magnet School**



Students at Washington Technology met their mentors at Securian Financial during the Cloud Summit



Students from North High School worked on identifying their Top Strengths with their mentors during the General Mills Cloud Summit

“We’re scattering seeds. We have no idea which seeds will blossom, or which seeds might need several years to take root. But, we know that some of them will grow into something amazing. The Cloud Coach mentors helped us scatter those seeds a little farther.”

**-Nafeesah Muhammad,
North High School Educator**



Students from Washburn High School participated in Mock Interviews with their mentors during the Cloud Summit at Cargill

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Gateway Prompts and Tracks

BestPrep worked with national youth research organization, Search Institute, to develop the guided conversation that mentors have with their students. These guides are called Gateway Prompts, which are sent to the mentors to help them steer the conversation in an intentional and effective way.

Gateway Prompts help the mentor and student discuss topics such as goal-setting, aspirations and hobbies, learning from mistakes, and career aptitude. The first half of the program emphasizes a “Think Forward” philosophy, and the second half focuses on “Act Now.”

In 2017, BestPrep created three tracks of Gateway Prompts to help mentors work with every type of student from the accelerated learners to those that may not graduate from high school. At the end of the year, surveys showed that 70% of mentors utilized more than one Gateway Track to find what worked best for their student.

Online Portal

BestPrep worked with Redpath Consulting to create an online portal using the CRM platform, Salesforce. This allowed mentors and students to communicate with one another through the portal rather than traditional emailing.

Benefits of the Online Portal:

- BestPrep has access to all messages sent, along with a filtering system to monitor emails, ensuring the safety and quality of the messages.
- Automated reminders are sent to mentors and students who haven’t written by the pre-determined deadline, increasing the number of students and mentors who write each week.
- Students enjoy the portal and find it more intuitive than sending an email. This decreases the amount of class time spent on Cloud Coach and increases the number of messages sent each week by the students. After making this change, time spent on sending emails in the classroom was cut in half.



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Cloud Coach Partnerships 2017-18

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL & GENERAL MILLS

133 Students • 138 Volunteers



COMO PARK SR HIGH SCHOOL, TRAVELERS & THOMSON REUTERS

277 Students • 284 Volunteers



WASHINGTON TECHNOLOGY, SECURIAN FINANCIAL & WELLS FARGO

294 Students • 308 Volunteers



WASHBURN HIGH SCHOOL, CARGILL & GENERAL MILLS

319 Students • 351 Volunteers

Cloud Coach Kick-Off

Students heard from speakers about setting the tone for their first email messages.

Jesse Ross,
Minneapolis
Foundation,
at Washburn
High School



Michael Keller,
CEO of Pearson's
Candy Company,
at Washington
Technology
Magnet School

