



Mentor Handbook



San Diego Unified School District
Community Relations Department
Partnerships in Education, Volunteer Program, Service Learning

“Building the Future Together”



“Mentor”

Mentor was a character in Homer’s epic poem “The Odyssey.” When Odysseus left Ithaca to fight the Trojan War, he asked his good friend Mentor to guard the household. Things began to go poorly, however, so Athena came down from heaven and inhabited Mentor’s body. From there she was able to give excellent advice to Odysseus’ son, Telemachus. Today the word mentor conveys the idea of a wise and trusted advisor and has been adopted in the business world to refer to a career guide or an executive nurturer.



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