**Boomerang Mentor Team Application 2011-2012**

* **New Applicant**
* **Hopeful Returnee**

**(Please Print Legibly)**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade Level 9 10 11**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Caregiver Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please Circle Your Shirt Size SMALL MEDIUM LARGE X-LARGE**

* **YOU MUST ATTACH A PERSONAL PHOTO OF YOURSELF TO THE APPLICATION.**

**In order to fulfill this responsibility you MUST make a firm commitment to enroll in the Fall Semester**

**Mentor Leadership elective, Course #1385. If you are at all uncertain as to whether you are “on track” for graduation and/or if your schedule will allow for this mandatory elective, it is your responsibility to consult your Division Counselor BEFORE submitting this application.**

**To become a Boomerang Mentor, there is an expectation that you are capable of speaking in front of *and* leading large and small groups. The ability to think on your feet and articulate thoughts, ideas, and feelings to others in ways that can be easily understood is essential. This ability enables you to demonstrate your commitment to the “GO BIG” Philosophy in a way that is conveyed with confidence and respect. Having this kind of experience prior to your application is helpful, however we are just as interested in accepting members who are willing to make it a personal challenge to quickly embrace our top three program components: GO BIG, TRUST THE PROCESS, and TOTAL SUPPORT.**

**On the scale below please rank your level of comfort in speaking in front of and leading small and large groups. In mentoring it is important that your leadership “delivery” is conveyed with energy and balanced with confidence and a genuine positive regard for others.**

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

**Scared! Confident!**

**Please list all extracurricular activities you plan to be involved in for the 2011-2012 school year.**

***FOR FIRST YEAR MENTORS ONLY***. **Please include the name of one TWHS teacher/coach/sponsor (non-relation) you feel would recommend you for this program. Indicate how you are connected to this person**

**Write a paragraph (attach sheet) that explains why you would like to be a Topeka West Boomerang Mentor. Specifically, how YOU might be able to contribute to the efforts and mission of the program.**

**(over)**

**Please read the following information carefully before turning in this application. Please understand that ALL Boomerang Mentors MUST be available and attend ALL of the following training events. We are providing you with these dates NOW (Jan ’11) with the expectation that you plan ahead regarding potential conflicts such as family obligations, other school activities, work schedules, etc. Every mentor’s participation in each of the events listed below is critical to our group’s success…yes…we are a TEAM!!**

**Date Event Place Time**

May 18th Thurs. May Development Day TWHS Band Room 11:15 am – 1:30 pm

Aug. 10th Wed. Summer Training/Orientation 1st Lutheran Church 8 am – 3:30 pm

ALL MENTORS

Aug. 11th Thurs. Summer Training/Orientation 1st Lutheran Church 8 am – 3:30 pm

ALL MENTORS

Aug. 16th Tues. Freshmen Orientation TWHS 6:45 am – 3:30 pm

**Mentoring Responsibilities & Expectations**

**This commitment requires your careful consideration. Your signature, and that of your parent/caregiver indicate you are entering into a contractual agreement to fulfill the following responsibilities if you are selected:**

* All mentors will establish themselves as leaders at Topeka West and support making this program well respected and honorable to the student body.
* Commit to learning and implementing the Boomerang curriculum to freshmen.
* Act as a role model in both academic and personal behaviors (at school, during school related functions, and out in our community).
* Demonstrate effective communication with directors, fellow mentors, freshmen, and freshmen POD teachers.
* Maintain a 2.5 G.P.A. and 90% Attendance average.
* Any student with one or more Fs will complete 2 hours of ‘study hall’ time per class until the grade is brought up. Documentation must be provided to directors.
* Any student failing two or more classes will be ineligible to participate in SFUs until they are no longer failing two or more classes.
* Commit to the “No Use” Policy on campus, at extra-curricular activities, and in the community.
* Any mentor who participates in a fight, engages in behavior that has legal ramifications or is otherwise not in good standing before freshmen orientation will be removed from the team at the discretion of the directors.
* Demonstrate sensitivity to your freshmen’s needs and be available to support your freshmen (academically, socially, and emotionally).
* **Demonstrate** accountability to yourself and others to show up throughout all phases of the program during both semesters.
* Enroll in the Mentor Leadership Elective class (Course #1385) the fall of 2011.
* During the **Fall Semester**, as a member of our Mentor Leadership Team you are required to maintain the commitment to meet with your freshmen **one Charger Time per week**.
* During the **Spring Semester**, as a member of our Mentor Leadership Team you are required to **commit two charger times per month.**
* Exhibit a willingness to enhance your own interpersonal awareness, communication skills, and leadership abilities.

\*\*failure to meet the above stated expectations can result in termination of your position on the team and/or failure in the Mentor Leadership Class.

**The Boomerang Mentor Project/Mentor Leadership** initiative was purposely designed to include 5 major program components. These components aid in delivering a comprehensive, planned and systematic peer facilitated mentor curriculum that positively impacts the academic and social/emotional needs of ALL students on our campus. There are five major program components that consist of:

* **Freshmen Orientation** (A spirited and interactive DAY-LONG orientation facilitated by 70 **trained** Boomerang Mentors)
* **Academic Follow Up Lessons** (Learned in Mentor Leadership class and delivered to freshmen in Charger time)
* **Social Follow Up Events** (One per month during the Fall semester)
* **Leader Initiated Contacts** (When Boomerang Mentors step forward on their own to provide support to their freshmen. **You are required to log AT LEAST 12 quality contact hours with your freshmen first semester)**
* **Mentor Leadership Class** (Fall Semester only)

In the Spring of 2006, funding was secured to train two Topeka West staff in a mentor curriculum that is **aligned with a nationally recognized peer mentoring program,** “**The Boomerang Project”**. The Boomerang Project has documented, research based studies that support the concept that students that form a connection with their high schools’ academic and extra-curricular activities, **and** who perceive their high school as having a climate of respect, acceptance and compassion, are less likely to choose high-risk behaviors and are *more likely* to graduate from high school. To learn more about the foundation that our program was originated from visit: [www.boomerangproject.com](http://www.boomerangproject.com).

**As a FRESHMAN the BENEFITS of this Program include:**

* Eases their transition into high school
* Mentors’ serve as easily accessible resources for support
* Fosters a comfortable, friendly atmosphere on campus
* Helps freshmen connect with their peers
* Creates an instant positive relationship with upperclassmen.
* Provides an on-going orientation to high school that enables students to become more familiar with their high schools physical layout, policies, procedures, programs, activities, personnel, and traditions.
* Provides a supportive environment where we see freshmen reductions of: absenteeism, disciplinary referrals, suspensions and expulsions, tardies, and failing classes.
* Promotes improvements in areas such as: Graduation rates, involvement in extra-curricular activities, improvement in applying conflict resolution skills, and planning for academic and life success.

**As a BOOMERANG MENTOR the BENEFITS of this Program include:**

* Promotes the development of personal leadership skills
* Ownership in enhancing the culture of Topeka West High School
* Opportunities to share your experiences to help others
* Privilege of being selected to be a part of an esteemed co-curricular program
* ……we believe it’s smart to invest in the future because…when all is said and done, ultimately you get back what you give!

**By signing this CONTRACT and APPLICATION it confirms your commitment** (and your parent/caregiver’s understanding) **to be available and if selected, to attend the mandatory training workshops. You also are agreeing to uphold the responsibilities stated on this application.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR SIGNATURE**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR PARENT’S/CAREGIVER’S SIGNATURE**

**Please turn in this COMPLETED application WITH YOUR PICTURE**

**NO LATER than Friday January 14th by 3:15 pm. Applications should be turned in to**

**Ms Sturges in C301 or Ms Esquibel in C309.**