



WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads Of Great Students) is a family and community engagement educational initiative.

Program Goals

- To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
- To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

Program Benefits

- Students gain positive male role models.
- Schools gain an extra set of eyes and ears.
- The presence of a father or father-figure will provide:
 - An additional deterrent to bullying,
 - Enhance a sense of security in the building,
 - Will help to create an environment conducive to learning.
- Fathers get a glimpse of their student's everyday world and learn about the increasingly complex challenges and decisions today's youth are facing. As a result, they can learn to relate better to their student and hopefully connect with them.
- Fathers gain a greater awareness of the positive impact they can have on their student's life in three critical areas, including:
 - Academic performance,
 - Self-esteem,
 - Social behavior.
- The WATCH D.O.G. volunteers provide real and important help for the teachers and the students.
- Many school principals have reported that the mere presence of a WATCH D.O.G. dramatically reduces reports of bullying.



Who are WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students)?

- WatchDOGS are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer for at least one day each school year at an official WATCH D.O.G.S. school.
- While the WATCH D.O.G. program does not allow GPES to change the name of their program, please know that we welcome all eligible volunteers to join us in supporting our Polar Bears.

Why is it important for fathers and father-figures to be engaged in a child's life?

- In our schools today, rates of fatherless and 'unfathered' children range from 35-75% of the student population.
- That means 35-75% of these students are missing an important ingredient in their life.
- Fathers and father-figures can provide a sense of safety, comfort and encouragement to students they interact with, making a lasting impression and serving as an important role model to all they encounter.

There are 3 winners when GPES has a successful WatchDOG Program in place:

1. Students win because the father and father-figures give their time and energy as a positive male role model.
2. School wins due to the Support and Safety a WATCH D.O.G. provides as an unobtrusive fathering presence on campus.
3. Dads win because we know our role as a WATCH D.O.G. may impact many lives, starting with our own students.

How will WatchDOGS Support Education and Safety at GPES?



WATCH D.O.G.S. will:

- Be approachable – smile, talk to the students, listen to them
- Be smart – follow the school's policy on appropriate conduct and behavior with the students and faculty
- Be alert – if a situation arises, please report it to a school official starting with the principal
- Be available – the goal is to be of service to the school, teacher and students
- Be a positive role model!
- Always wear Official Uniform T-shirts while they are on official WATCH D.O.G. duty
- ENCOURAGE STUDENTS! (*with lots of smiles and high fives, etc.*)
- Help with traffic flow of vehicles and students at arrival and dismissal times
- Monitor school hallways and entrances
- Monitor buildings - inside/outside
- Assist at lunch
- Assist at recess, study hall, social times
- Eat lunch with students
- Play or referee on the playground or in the gym
- Read with classes or tutor small groups of students
- Work with flash cards and/or educational games
- Actively and positively engage with their student and others
- Speak to classes about importance of education and career choices
- Be available to mentor male students
- Be chaperones on field trips and away games/activities
- Assist coaches and activity sponsors
- Help students with test review
- Support fine arts classes (i.e. band, choir, art, yearbook, etc.) with your presence and/or experience
- Smile and be a hero for a day!



WATCH D.O.G.S. should NOT:

- Go into students' (girls' or boys') restrooms
- Be alone or unsupervised with students
- Be disruptive when classes are in session
- Use profanity or any form of tobacco on school grounds
- Share political or religious beliefs to students
- Engage in any conduct that brings disrespect to himself or his student(s), the school and/or the WATCH D.O.G.S.® Program and other volunteering fathers.



How do I sign up to be a WATCH D.O.G. Volunteer?

- Attend the Kickoff Event in the Fall at GPES.
- Visit the WatchDOG bulletin board in the main GPES hallway and take a volunteer form.
- Ask at the GPES front desk.
- Contact Nick LaShomb – PTSA WATCH D.O.G. school representative:
 - E-mail: nlashomb@trueblue.com
 - Cell: (253) 948-2611

