



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 WatchDOGS volunteers provide real and important help for the teachers and the students.
- Many school principals have reported that the mere presence of a WatchDOG dramatically reduces reports of bullying.



Who are WatchDOGS (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.

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 WatchDOG provides as an unobtrusive fathering presence on campus.
3. Dads win because we know our role as a WatchDOG may impact many lives, starting with our own students.

How will WatchDOGS Support Education and Safety at GPES?



WatchDOGS 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 WatchDOG 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!



WatchDOGS 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 WatchDOG Volunteer?

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

