

# SUMMIT LEARNING INSIDER



Mentorship is a key pillar of Summit Learning, and this week's edition of the Insider will help you understand the role of a mentor, why it is critical to a student's education, and how you can work with your child's mentor.

## Student Experience

### What does mentor time look like for your child?

We know that all families want their children to be truly known and cared for by the adults at their school. Through Summit Learning, all students are paired with a mentor who acts as their advocate both inside and outside of the classroom. A mentor can be a teacher, a school leader, or other administrator at your student's school. Mentors meet with your student one-on-one regularly to support them in their progress towards their personal goals.

Mentors get to know their students deeply and strive to support them as they develop their own sense of purpose. Mentors also help students set both long-term and short-term goals and coach them through their progress.

Watch this video to see [Mentorship In Action](#).

## Getting Involved

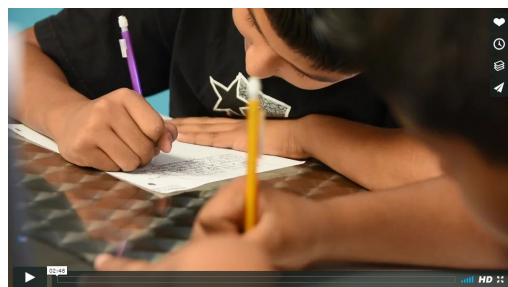
You may be wondering who your student's mentor is and how you can work with them to help them get to know your student. If you'd like to learn more about one-on-one mentorship, reach out to your student's mentor once he or she has been assigned and set up a meeting!

Mentors will be keen to hear all about your student - their personality, their goals and aspirations, life outside of school that could have an impact on life inside the classroom, and more. You can all work with the student to help support them in their journey towards leading a fulfilled life.

**BONUS:** [hear from a student](#) about the impact her mentor has had on her life.

## The Community

What's the highest compliment a teacher can receive? For Beth Duncan, a teacher who's been in the classroom for 25 years, it's her students saying her class is challenging. Duncan teaches humanities and video journalism at Rancho Minerva Middle School in California. Visit the [Summit Learning Blog](#) to read about why Beth and her students believe sometimes the hardest times are the most rewarding. Watch their class-produced video below to see inside their experience, too!



## FAQs

**Q: What does my student's schedule look like?**

**A:** Your student's school schedule includes project time where they work on projects to build cognitive skills, mentor time where they develop a deep understanding of their personal goals, and personalized learning time where they pursue individualized pathways to master content. These elements are pillars of Summit Learning's scientifically backed educational model. Read more about the school day on the next page.

# THE SCIENCE BEHIND SUMMIT LEARNING

## Part Three: Gaining Content Knowledge In A Way That Best Suits Your Needs

Students must understand academic subjects more deeply than a web search can provide. They need this broad Content Knowledge base in order to put Cognitive Skills to work. The Summit approach empowers students to set goals and deeply understand content by consuming in their learning style.

**What the research says about Content Knowledge:** Three decades of research shows that students must acquire and retain Content Knowledge to support the development of Cognitive Skills ([Willingham](#), 2009; [Schwartz](#) 2016). Contemporary research also supports the idea that in order to meet the needs of all learners, students should advance through material at their own pace, be provided with the appropriate supports, and move on only when they demonstrate proficiency in a given subject ([AIR](#), 2016; [Rose](#), 2016).

**What it looks like in the classroom:** The content Summit Learning students have access to isn't restricted to a given textbook or handout. Instead, students have constant access to content across their entire grade level and beyond. During [Personalized Learning Time](#), students progress at their own pace. Content is broken into Focus Areas — the key vocabulary, ideas, events and concepts needed to have a base level understanding of a subject. Teachers provide constant support and guidance as well as targeted instructional support. Students take assessments when they are ready, instead of with the entire class at the same time. Students have access to learning resources at all times.

Individualized  
**PATHWAYS**  
that meet  
students' needs

