

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The students at Washington Middle School with the support of Principal Williams, have the opportunity to participate in the Level-Up School-based Mentoring Program of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Gulf Coast. In the program, a child, Little, is "matched" with BBBS Staff "Big" to participate in a group mentoring setting. Group mentoring will consist of groups of 3-5 students that meet each week for one hour for the duration of the school year with the Big. The Big will provide positive role modeling and exposure to help Littles plan and set goals, increase social and emotional skills, as well as their self-confidence and sense of belonging. The Big will facilitate group-specific curriculum in the weekly meetings. All meetings take place at school, during school hours only. During the summer months when your child is away from school, we encourage them to connect by writing postcards. Matches have been known to last for several years with the support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Gulf Coast.

The safety of your child is our highest priority. We start by thoroughly screening "Bigs" which includes an extensive screening process of references, background checks, an in-person interview, and training before they can be eligible to be a Big. We also interview your child to find out their likes and interests so we are prepared to find the best group of Littles for the group mentoring sessions. We have found this to be the best way to build a strong relationship that will have the greatest impact on your child's future success.

Big Brothers Big Sisters School-based Mentoring Program is free to participants. If you would like your child to have this opportunity, please go to <https://bbbs.tfaforms.net/f/BBBSSA> or scan the QR Code on this page selecting "Enroll my child to get a mentor" and indicate you learned about the program from Washington Middle School. Once complete, we will then send you the link for your child's online application. Thank you in advance for allowing your child to participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Level-Up School-based Mentoring Program. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me and I will help you through the process.

Sincerely,

*Kelly Qualls*

Kelly Qualls

VP of Programs

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