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Freshmen get a little help from their new friends

Teachers at South Mecklenburg High School got a little extra help in their classrooms on the first day of school. Pairs of mentors who are juniors and seniors were assigned to each freshman homeroom. The mentors will spend this year working with the ninth-graders, showing them the ropes of high school, offering suggestions on how to succeed and just being someone the new students can talk to.

More than 55 upperclassmen are part of a new pilot program in partnership with the Carolinas College of Health Sciences. They completed a week-long leadership course at the college this summer and are now serving as lead mentors.

Students enrolled in the course will receive three hours of college credit. The course cost each student only \$75 because of the partnership with the Carolinas College of Health Sciences. Students who could not afford the tuition received scholarships from the South Meck Parent-Teacher-Student Association. Another 50 upperclassmen who could not attend the classes will be associate mentors. Each student will mentor six to seven freshmen.

Last Friday, Aug. 22, the freshmen spent time at South Meck, meeting with their new mentors, touring the school, playing games and getting to know each other. The mentors will meet with the freshmen on a regular basis. Mentor groups will also perform community- and school-based projects together.

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