



**UNITED WAY**  
Northeastern  
Minnesota

**LUNCH  
BUDDIES**

**2024-2025  
PROGRAM RESULTS**

**44** 

**Elementary  
Students Matched  
With Mentors**

**11** 

**Schools  
Partnering**

Cherry School • Falls Elementary • Floodwood School  
Keewatin Elementary • Laurentian Elementary • Merritt Elementary  
Mesabi East School • North Star Elementary • Northeast Range School  
Parkview Elementary • Vaughan-Steffensrud Elementary

Serving students from:  
Aurora, Babbitt, Cherry, Chisholm, Floodwood, International Falls, Eveleth,  
Gilbert, Keewatin, Mountain Iron, Nashwauk, Virginia,  
and the surrounding communities

**Mentees felt  
cared for**

**98%**  
of students  
said yes

**100%**  
of mentors  
saw this

**94%**  
of teachers  
saw this

**100%**  
of parents/  
caregivers  
saw this



**Improvement  
following  
instructions**

**80%**  
of students  
said yes

**98%**  
of mentors  
saw this

**91%**  
of teachers  
saw this

**100%**  
of parents/  
caregivers  
saw this



**Improved  
attitude about  
school**

**95%**  
of students  
said yes

**91%**  
of mentors  
saw this

**85%**  
of teachers  
saw this

**100%**  
of parents/  
caregivers  
saw this



**Improved self  
esteem**

**98%**  
of students  
said yes

**100%**  
of mentors  
saw this

**88%**  
of teachers  
saw this

**100%**  
of parents/  
caregivers  
saw this



**Improved  
conversational  
skills**

**93%**  
of students  
said yes

**100%**  
of mentors  
saw this

**91%**  
of teachers  
saw this

**100%**  
of parents/  
caregivers  
saw this

**Happier  
students**

**98%**  
of mentors  
saw this

**88%**  
of teachers  
saw this

**100%**  
of parents/  
caregivers saw this



**LUNCH  
BUDDIES**

**LEARN MORE:**

218-254-3329 • [info@unitedwaymemn.org](mailto:info@unitedwaymemn.org)

608 East Drive, Chisholm MN 55719 • [www.unitedwaymemn.org](http://www.unitedwaymemn.org)



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**LUNCH  
BUDDIES**

**2024-2025  
PROGRAM FEEDBACK**



**Students say...**

“My Lunch Buddy is friendly.”

“It is fun!”

“I get excited to see my Lunch Buddy.”

**“I get to play games and ask questions.”**



**Mentors say...**

“She seemed to love the one-on-one attention she was getting”

“He seemed to open up more as the program went on, and he loved to do things that were active.”

**“I saw tremendous growth in his confidence as the year went on, he spoke up more when things were on his mind, and took the lead on things he wanted to do.”**



**Schools say...**

“I noticed a visible difference in the student after every lunch and throughout the year.”

“His dad is in prison, so he LOVES having someone come to the school just for him.”

**“She was always excited on Lunch Buddies day. If she was having a tough day/week due to life or school situations, this was something positive she could look forward to.”**



**Parents & caregivers say...**

“A few times when he had a bad week and didn’t want to go back to school after a weekend, I reminded him he had Lunch Buddies, and he perked right up.”

“He used to struggle daily with social and sensory issues, and now the issues have become less frequent.”

**“Before Lunch Buddies my son was anxious in social settings, and didn’t find much enjoyment in school activities. Since being in the Lunch Buddy program he has significantly improved with his social skills and is always excited on his Lunch Buddy day.”**



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