

## Cobb Mentoring Matters Partners with Clark Atlanta University and Morehouse College to Pilot Mentoring at Riverside Intermediate.

Cobb Mentoring Matters (CMM) recently sponsored a 90 minute mentoring session with 6 Riverside Students with 6 students from Clark Atlanta University and Morehouse College. Mentor Coordinator Maryellen Gomes had been working with Neiasha Russell, Profession School Counselor at Riverside in hopes of recruiting mentors for the school.

It has been a challenge recruiting mentors for the South Cobb area so when CMM was recently approached by a senior at Clark Atlanta University Lashawna Owens to conduct her senior project on mentoring, the opportunity was welcomed. Since the need is recruitment, we strategized with the help of Ms. Russell at Riverside to plan a mini mentoring session to see how receptive the college students would be. The timing of this was important as well since the students were preparing for the Milestone Testing. We asked the mentors talk about the importance of taking the tests seriously and putting forth their best effort.

It was important to include a mix of students “our frequent flyers” and our “high achievers”. To Ms. Russell credit her choice of students proved to be a good mix. Each of the Riverside students introduced themselves then the “mentors” did the same and offered the boys a window into their experiences while in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades. A comment that got their attention is when one of the mentors said “that it was fun talking to girls, but even better to be able to help them with their homework.” For some of the boys the expression was an aha moment that was priceless to see.

CMM has not had great success with college students as their schedules and social lives are quite hectic so it’s difficult for them to commit to one hour each week for the school year. This was an opportunity to explore options for college mentors to participate at level of involvement that worked for them.

These young men experienced how engaged our students were with their presence. Our hope is that they will consider making some level of commitment to mentor with us next year. CMM will also explore doing similar events with Kennesaw State University for the upcoming school year.