A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated 

**Take Stock in Children of Citrus County**

Take Stock in Children ([www.takestockinchildren.org](http://www.takestockinchildren.org)) is a state-wide school-based mentoring program that assists in creating a brighter future for deserving youth from **financially disadvantaged families** by providing college or vocational scholarships, volunteer mentors, support staff, early intervention and long-term support.

Students apply in middle school and remain in the program until they graduate from high school. Upon graduation, students who complete the program will receive a Florida Prepaid 2-year tuition-free scholarship.

Take Stock in Children of Citrus County currently monitors **50 active students** enrolled in our middle & high public schools. Each Guidance Office is provided with a list of students who are active in the program. We try to maintain an open line of communications between students, teachers, Guidance Offices, parents and mentors. We are always happy to help our students in any way that we can.

To remain a student “in good standing”, students must:

* Maintain at least a 2.5 average in each of their classes
* Have a 2.5 or better cumulative GPA
* Regularly attend school
* Adhere to Citrus County Schools’ Student Code of Conduct
* Remain drug, alcohol & crime free
* Meet with his/her mentor at least 30 minutes each week throughout their school career

Each student in the program is provided with guidance from a trained mentor who meets with the student once a week in their school and provides support, academic assistance and a “friend” to whom they can relate.

Our mentor and student matching / meeting process:

* **All mentors have a background check and are approved through the school district’s Volunteer Program.**
* Mentors are matched with a student as soon as possible after the student is enrolled in the program.
* The program works with the students and their mentors to find an agreeable time to meet.
* We do not advocate students leaving their core classes and will work with them & their mentors to find a time when it would be convenient for them to meet.
* Students are asked to let their teachers know that they are in the program and ask if it would convenient for you to allow them some time to meet with their mentors.
* Mentoring occurs usually in your school’s Media Center or courtyards, if they meet during a student’s lunch time.

**This is how the program is designed to work. Sometimes, minor variations may occur. If you have any questions or if we can assist in any way, or if you have a student you would like to nominate for our application process, please call our office for additional information and the specific criteria for qualifying. Thank you so much for your support.**

**Pat Lancaster, Student Services Coordinator**

**352-344-0855**

**352-422-2348 (cell)**

[plancaster@takestockcitrus.org](mailto:plancaster@takestockcitrus.org)

[www.takestockcitrus.org](http://www.takestockcitrus.org)

**Reviewed – 7/20**

**Take Stock in Children of Citrus County is a 501c3 organization**