**WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students)** is an innovative father involvement, educational initiative of the National Center For Fathering. There are two primary goals of the WATCH D.O.G.S. program:

1) To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important and,

2) To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

WATCH D.O.G.S. is one of the nation’s largest and most respected school-based, family, and community engagement, organizations in the country. Since the program’s creation in 1998, more than 6,450 schools across the country have launched a WATCH D.O.G.S. program of their own. Each school year hundreds of thousands of fathers and father-figures make a positive impact on millions of children by volunteering millions of hours in their local schools through this amazing one-of-a-kind program.

**Who Are WATCH D.O.G.S?**

WATCH D.O.G.S are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer for at least one day each year at an official WATCH D.O.G.S school. During the day, WATCH D.O.G.S may read and work on flash cards with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with not only their own students, but other students as well. Many school principals have reported that the mere presence of a WATCH D.O.G.S dramatically reduces reports of bullying. On the day of their participation, WATCH D.O.G.S are given a brief review of their involvement and they wear an official WATCH D.O.G.S. t-shirt.
How WATCH D.O.G.S. Works

Individuals sign up in the office or by calling 515-462-1551 at any time throughout the school year. The program is overseen by a “Top Dog” volunteer who partners with the school administrator to coordinate scheduling and identify opportunities for WATCH D.O.G.S to provide assistance at the school. WATCH D.O.G.S volunteers perform a variety of tasks during their volunteer day including monitoring the school entrance, assisting with bus duty, monitoring the lunch room, or helping in the classroom with a teacher’s guidance by working with small groups of students on homework, flashcards, or spelling.

Program Benefits

* Schools gain an extra set of eyes and ears. The presence of WATCH D.O.G.S can increase the sense of security at the building for students and staff, and helps enhance an environment that is conducive to learning.

* Students gain a positive male role model. Some students do not have a father-figure present in their home and the number of male teachers has been steadily declining in recent years. More positive male role models are needed in the school setting.

* Fathers and father-figures can spend meaningful time with their students in the school setting and gain a greater awareness of the positive impact they can have on their student's life, just by being a "dad.'

* When WATCH D.O.G.S invest a day at school, they can learn how to better partner with the school to meet the educational goals of students.

To sign up to volunteer at school for a day please contact a Building Secretary at the Winterset Elementary 515-462-1551.

For additional information email rvaughn@winterset.k12.ia.us

Thanks for your consideration in volunteering!