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Rite of Passage programs fulfill their mission to improve the lives of youth not only through its evidence and research-based programming, but also through the valuable contributions of our community partners. Ridge View Academy's partnership with Friends for Youth, a non-profit, Colorado-based mentoring organization, has enabled mentors from the community to assist Ridge View students as they prepare to transition from our program back to their home communities.

Mentors have been meeting with youth at Ridge View every Wednesday night for the last five months. During these meetings, students and mentors discuss important topics for transitioning youth, such as: goal-setting, peer pressure, relationship building, independent living skills and job acquisition skills, among many others.

A final, off-site group meeting was held in which every mentor and mentee jointly celebrated their journey and the lessons they learned together. These types of group activities help maintain community connections and build life-long relationships between mentors and the youth. By providing Ridge View youth with a caring adult to be at their side, our students are better equipped to navigate their difficult transition back into the community.

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