



Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process. Our Mission: Meeting student educational needs as defined by the teacher through suitable and trained volunteer tutors in the local, Tri-county Title 1 public schools as determined by the Board of Directors.

Recent Board of Directors' Message to All Tutors

As volunteer tutors, you may have many questions about what will happen with our program and our schools this Fall. The Board of Tutors for Kids does not have answers yet, but we are doing our best to gather information to help with decision making as we move toward the possible opening of our schools.

First, we want to thank all of you for your commitment to our schools, teachers, and students. Unfortunately, we were not able to continue our work this Spring, due to the closing of our schools for the safety and welfare of the students and staff. But your contributions for this too short school year are very much appreciated. We hope you will be able to continue with tutoring when possible in the future.

Second, we all realize that we are working in uncharted territory here and that what our schools will look like in the coming year and beyond is not known yet. We are not sure what the roles of our tutors will be in that future.

Right now, we are in the information gathering phase. What are the plans for the opening of school? Will those plans be the same in all three counties? Will there be a role for our tutors? What about the book program?

Board members plan to meet with several principals from all three counties in June to learn more about the planning and what we can do to support the staff and students through this process. We are looking for creative ideas to continue working with the schools, staff, and students. If you have thoughts or ideas about this, please let us know. You can contact one of the following Board members:

- Rhonda Casey, Board Chair:
rhonda.casey@tutorsforkids.org
- Eileen Honohan, Board Vice-Chair:
eileen.honohan@tutorsforkids.org
- Sandy Behenna, Board Secretary:
sbehenna1@gmail.com

We will keep you informed as we learn more. Your safety

and welfare and that of the staff and students we work with are our priority. Please take care of yourselves and we hope you and your family and friends are healthy and well.

THANK, THANK, THANK YOU TUTORS

School Year Has Ended – What about the Fall

Our school year has ended. The virus has impacted everyone in varying degrees. Our students have had their classroom education take a dramatic turn. At a very young age, they were asked to adapt to a new way of learning. They had to decide to participate, unsupervised, at a home setting, in a computerized classroom session. We know how difficult it is for them to participate in a one on one tutoring session. Imagine a whole day!

What happens in the Fall? As mentioned in the previous article, at their May meeting, the Tutors for Kids Board of Directors made their top priority to meet with the Principals at each of our schools to learn what the state has advised and what the counties have decided. Our primary concern is the safety of our students, tutors, and teachers. We expect classrooms to be very different than in August of 2019. We are prepared to offer some suggestions about tutoring students who need extra help.

We will gather what the Principals have told us, suggestions that they have made, and suggestions that we have offered. During July, we will email you a tentative approach to tutoring in the Fall. We will also publish an extended document in our July newsletter and update it again in the August newsletter.

What about Our Book Program? –

As you know each year we give at books to all our tutored classrooms two times each year (Books for the Break) and a reward books to the students we tutor each month (Books for the Bag).

This means we usually give out about 17,000 new books each year. Well, the School Book Coordinators (SBC) at

each school did a great job of stocking up with new books for the end of this year distribution. But the virus and the closing of schools left us with thousands of books locked up in each school with no way to distribute.

What to do? Again, the Tutors for Kids Board of Directors is working with Sandy Lynch, the Head Book Coordinator, and the SBCs to develop a distribution plan. Of course, this depends on the counties' plans for the Fall. Stay tuned. We will let you know as soon as we process the input from the principals.

I am a School Tutor Coordinator (STC) - What should I do now? We are all in a "holding pattern" until learn what our counties are planning. So, for now, just keep in touch with your tutors. An email 'thank you' would be very appropriate. When all is known about the fall, you can contact your tutors with the "plan" for the Fall and determine who is returning to help carry out the "plan".

THANK, THANK, THANK YOU TUTORS

Congratulations to David Hulback – Each year Sumter County recognizes outstanding volunteers – and this year the Wildwood Middle High School honored David Hulback as their Outstanding Volunteer. David has been with Tutors for Kids for approximately five years – and we send hearty congratulations to him!!

A Prediction - What Classrooms May Look Like in the Fall – a veteran teacher and author predicts! (An article by Valerie Strauss, an education reporter about Larry Felazzo, an author and high school teacher in Sacramento, CA). Larry shares some thoughts on what school committees must consider when planning for the fall, assuming school buildings will open.

"Here is what I think it's going to look like in many high school classrooms, and very possibly in elementary and middle schools, too.

- There will be some kind of staggered attendance — either by days or morning/afternoon shifts (more likely the former), and done in a way that there will be a maximum of 10 students in a classroom at any one time, spaced apart...
- The remaining student work will be done online at home in asynchronous classrooms...
- Forget physical books, pencils or papers for quick-writes; all reading and writing will be done on laptops...
- Even small group work will be done online...
- Every student will have a school-issued laptop and will be required to bring it to school every day...
- We teachers will be moving around to the rooms rather than the other way around...

- Lunches will be staggered, and students will eat breakfast and lunch in the same room with their regular classmates...
- Of course, all of us — teachers and students alike — will be wearing masks every day, all day...

It seems to me that if my predictions are correct, things should be safe enough for everyone to go back to school, including for those of us in the range of 55 to 65 years old.

One of my biggest questions is how seriously districts will be on providing protective equipment and funding staff to do the necessary cleaning.

Ctrl + Click on the Link below for the full article:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/05/08/teacher-predicts-what-his-classroom-others-will-look-like-fall/>

[Valerie Strauss](#) was a reporter for the L.A. Times and now works for the Washington Post.

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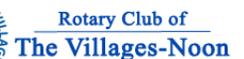
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2020 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



2019-2020 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:



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