



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.

Update on Schools Reopening – As of June 26 members of our Board of Directors met with many of the Principals in our twelve schools. The good news is ‘each school definitely wants you back to tutor’. But (**isn’t there always a “but”**) as of the above date, there is no firm decisions at the county level about what the school year will look like OR whether they can allow volunteers to return.

The best we can tell is that we have to wait until later to learn of a decision. We promise to publish a newsletter as soon as we hear.

Reopening Guidelines – What Are They? - Governor Ron DeSantis prepared a lengthy Power Point presentation to be used by each county as guidelines for reopening schools. Those with whom we have spoken put student and staff safety at the top of their list. With “safety” in mind you can begin to imagine how many issues are involved in this ‘safety’ process.

Look at the school day from start to finish:

1. How do you bus the students to school ‘safely’? Masks⁶ required for all?
2. Or ‘social distancing’ meaning twelve students to a bus instead of the usual thirty to forty? How many buses are needed? How many drivers? How to pay for these extras?
3. How about the classrooms? Is there a six-foot rule? Most classrooms are small. Does this mean only ten students to a class?
4. Do half the students attend in the morning and the other half in the afternoon?

This list of questions and problems could go on and on. We have just touched on a few. Regardless of what the counties decide, it will be costly to implement. A final question: “Where is the money going to come from?”

There is funding supplied by the C.A.R.E act. When you read the Governor’s presentation, you can see the many phases and complications involved in applying for help and the administration of these programs.

Here is a link to the Governor’s presentation:

https://fasa.net/userfiles/uploads/FLDOE_ReopeningCAR ESAct_06.10.20_Final.pdf

Complicating the situation further are some state statistics about the mix of our students: 62.6% minority; 33.9% Hispanic; 21.9% African American; 62.7% live in low-income households; 14.1% have special needs (disabilities); 10.2% are English Language Learners.

New Tutor Orientation – In normal times we would be announcing the date for new tutor orientation. As we all know these are not “normal” times. So, announcements about new tutor orientation will wait until we know how our three counties are going to open their schools AND if volunteers can go into classrooms. Watch your email.

Tutors - Returning or Not? – As stated above, these are not ‘normal times.’ By now, you would be communicating with your School Tutor Coordinator (STC) about your tutoring plans for the coming school year. BUT, you probably have **not** received an email. We need to know what plans each county has implemented so that we can advise you about volunteering. The principals want us. But the decision rests in the hands of their county officials.

When you receive the email, there may be different policies in each county. For example, in one county, we may be allowed in September; another in January; and in a third county ‘not at all.’ Bear with us!! Be patient

We understand that each of you will make your own personal decision on tutoring this year – and we respect that. We promise to keep you posted as soon as we hear.

Tutors for Kids Endowment – As announced in previous newsletters, an anonymous donor has established an endowment to support the longevity of Tutors for Kids.

We are an all-volunteer organization. We have no payroll or offices. But we do have expenses. We give out about 17,000 new books to children each year. We do receive some funding and grants to help. We also have a tracking database for our books and assignment of tutors for nearly 2,600 students who receive weekly tutoring.

Books are expensive (and becoming more so each year) and the cost for licensing our database software exceed \$5,000 yearly.

So, our endowment will help in the future. We are a 501-c-3 nonprofit. Check with your tax advisor to see how you can help.

Recent Board of Directors' Message to All Tutors

As mentioned above, Board members are meeting with principals to discuss the re-opening of the schools. Everyone is waiting on the counties to decide what they will do.

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.

Some Educational Articles for You – For long time, we have been accustomed to a traditional schedule that schools have followed across the entire country. It is always 6 ½ hours each day; five days each week; one hundred and eighty days each year.

One columnist-educator, Jay Mathews, writes that: **“Some students might soon get what they’ve long needed: More classroom time”**.

The link to the whole article is below. Use Cntl+Click with your mouse.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/some-students-might-soon-get-what-theyve-long-needed-more-classroom-time/2020/06/19/03c01274-b09b-11ea-8758-bfd1d045525a_story.html

Everybody is wondering what schools will look like in the Fall. Valeria Strauss tells us what a group of educators from different states are trying to figure out. When you read the article, you can see what most states are wrestling with and the different conclusions they are reaching.

See the link below.

Use Cntl+Click with your mouse.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/06/18/its-mid-june-schools-still-arent-sure-how-they-will-open-2020-21-heres-why-whats-likely-happen/>

Steven Yoder writes in the Washington Post:

“Middle school is often difficult. Try experiencing it under quarantine”.

His article explores what the middle school age group experiences. He quotes Laurence Steinberg, a professor of psychology at Temple University:

“...it is a time of rapid cognitive changes, when kids assert their independence from parents, from their own identities and become hyper-dependent on (and sensitive to) interaction with peers. Their ‘social’ brains’ are developing quickly...to figure out who they are and how they fit in”.

Check out Steven Yoder's full article using the link below: Use Cntl+Click with your mouse.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/06/19/middle-school-coronavirus/>

Phone for Tutors for Kids, Inc.

352-568-5843

Web: www.tutorsforkidsinc.org Email: tutors@tutors4kids.org

2020 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



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