

TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC

Celebrating 12 years of Tutoring Children

Excited children eager to learn

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

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.



Notes from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for Tutors for Kids held their quarterly meeting on Monday, January 10, at 3PM via Zoom.

The board welcomed a new member –
Chuck Ramberg

The Grants Team is thrilled to announce that Tutors for Kids has received grants and donations from:

Duke Energy for books in our Marion County Schools

The Wilma Hogan Foundation (Altrusa Tampa)

Our first Giving Tuesday initiative

Schools and the status of volunteers:

Leesburg Elementary and Fruitland Park Elementary have temporarily ceased allowing visitors, including our tutors

Wildwood teachers are asking for tutors

Villages/Lady Lake Elementary is asking for volunteers

Wildwood Middle School desperately needs math tutors

SPOTLIGHT Frank Russo



My name is Frank Russo. I have been a tutor since 2009 and on the Board of Directors of Tutors for Kids starting in 2010. I was never a teacher but when growing up I had difficulty in reading and math. It was only through the extra efforts of my teachers and parents that I finally started to read at 'grade level' but this was when I was in the Fifth Grade. A year later I hit grade level in math. It was a long road!

I had various career paths after my university days. Starting with a Master's Degree in community counseling specializing in chemical addiction, I ran several residential programs for ex-convicts trying to escape their addiction. This lasted ten years before 'burn-out' set in. Somehow I entered the world of computers in the 1970s and stayed programming on various platforms for almost 25 years. In addition, I did numerous technology training programs.

When I arrived in Florida in 2000, I volunteered with the Adult Literacy League helping adults to read. In 2009 my wife, Carolyn Ruhe, and I volunteered to read with children in our local schools. We were shocked to realize very few of the children could read along with us. Several other volunteers had the same experience. We agreed that something should be done. So six of us volunteered to work with students on reading and math. Thus was born Tutors for Kids in 2009.

The program grew over the next few years as the word 'got around'. Just before Covid-19 closed the schools to volunteers, Tutors for Kids had over 500 tutors, working in 12 schools, and tutoring 2500+ students each week.

As I look back I know that I was motivated to continue getting volunteers interested in tutoring due to my struggles and the wonderful, patient people who helped me. As a volunteer, you too could have a lasting impact on a student!



Tutors – Math Help Needed

The newsletter has just received an URGENT request from the STC, Josephine Morello, at Wildwood Middle School. The request involves students in the 7th and 8th grade who are way, way behind in Math.

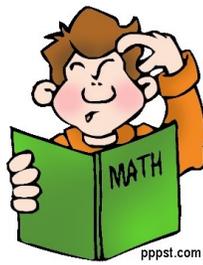
Here is the request from the STC:

There are thirty-five 7th and 8th graders who need help with basic math. Currently their knowledge level is 3rd grade. They need help learning multiplication tables, etc. You will be working with a group of 2-3 students for about one hour several days a week. The students and tutors will meet in a designated area (conference room, office, media center) and two advisors will be available to answer any questions you may have. **This is extremely urgent.** If you are interested please email me at: j.morello@tutorsforkidsinc.org or call me at 352-430-2713.

Thank you, Josephine Morello

Tutoring Math

by Frank Russo



In the November newsletter, we started a series of articles on tutoring math – the old math and the new math. In the ‘old’ math the students had columns of numbers to add or subtract. There was always a plus + or a minus – a sign that told the students what to do. Students also had a group of numbers to multiple or divide using the appropriate signs. The student knew what to do with the numbers by the signs.

In the new math, many problems are extracted from ‘narrative’ math. The student reads a story containing a problem to be solved. It could be brief (think second grade); it could be detailed (think fifth grade), or it could be abstract with symbols and ‘order of operations’ (think middle school). There are no signs. The student figures out the problem from reading the story and then must decide what mathematical procedure to use. There are two fundamentals in the new math. First, the student must be able to read with comprehension. Second, the student must identify the problem, structure the numbers, and decide which math procedure to use. You can see reading is fundamental. Your math student may have a reading problem to go along with a math problem.

In November we started describing several ways to get the fundamentals of ‘old’ math before tackling ‘new’ math. First starting in first grade, tutors must help their students to ‘Stop the Scrawl’. Many students scrawl their letters all over the page. They cannot do this ‘scrawl’ in numbers. Math demands columns and rows. Turn your paper on its side to form columns or use large block graph paper. Second help the student to understand the ‘ones’, the ‘tens’, the ‘hundreds’, the ‘thousands’ columns, etc. Many, even at the middle school level, have failed to understand this math fundamental. As a result, they cannot do multiplication or division. They don’t know where to start or how to set up/use the different columns. Remember many reading principles apply to math. Students need to hear, see, do, and practice numbers. In the ‘ones’ column with paper turned on its side, students use and write one column containing numbers 0 through 9. For 10 through 99, they use two columns with the same 0 – 9 in the first (right) column and all 1s in the second (left) column. Many students have math problems – even in higher grades – because they missed these fundamentals. They fail to understand how to carry over numbers from the ‘ones’ to the ‘tens’ column, etc. which affects their addition and subtraction. This failure causes chaos in multiplication and long division. Wow at last, once you have checked out the ‘old’ fundamentals, you are ready to start math.

Some of the problems your student will experience are ‘old’ math. Their numbers are stacked up (stackable math) with the appropriate signs. Use your graph paper, or theme paper turned on its side to keep the math process orderly. Have the student transfer the numbers in the problem to the graph or the side-turned theme paper. The student should explain what each math sign means, where they are going to put the numbers, and what they are going to do with the numbers. What to watch for: finger counting; carrying from one column to another column; total ignorance of the ‘times tables’; frustration leading the student to quit the problem. Many ‘narrative’ math problems especially for a second or third grader are confusing. As a tutor be creative and keep it simple. Make up easy narrative math stories. Put them in writing. Initially include just one math function in each narrative problem. See if the student can find and describe the problem and then what the student plans to do with the numbers. Have the

(Continued next column)

student do a lot of work on a worksheet to try out different scenarios that the student learned from reading the problem. Don’t be surprised if it takes a few weeks or even a few months to have the student feel comfortable with this whole new world of math. Keep it lite! Remind the student that in math they work with all the numbers they already know, 0 -9. These are the numbers they will see from now to later high school or maybe college. In reading, they will see twenty-six letters leading to millions of possible words. Math is ‘easy’ compared to English, Language, Arts. Next month more on tutoring the ‘new’ math

Amazon Smile Contributes to Tutors for Kids

Amazon Smile continues to fund Tutors for Kids based on your purchases through the Amazon Smile website when you place your order. You will pay no more than on the regular Amazon website but Amazon, through its foundation, will make a contribution to Tutors for Kids. Thank you for using Amazon Smile to make your purchases.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-481558>

I received this email (December 2021) from Amazon Smile pertaining to a check that Tutors For Kids received from Amazon:



This is the quarterly notification to inform you that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to the charity you’ve selected, **Tutors For Kids Incorporated**, in the amount of **\$74.23** as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers who have selected this charity.

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2020 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:

United Way of Lake & Sumter Counties

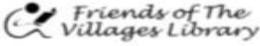
2019-2020 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:

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