

TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC

Celebrating 12 years of Tutoring Children

Excited children eager to learn

JUNE 2023 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.

June



Thank
you!

Glen Moyer was recognized for his dedicated service

upon his retirement from the Tutors for Kids board of directors at the May 8, 2023 meeting.. A big THANK YOU, Glen!

Another successful school year!

May 13, 2023

The 2022/2023 school year is coming to an end and what a difference Tutors for Kids has made. We added 110 new tutors this school year! Thank you to all our tutors and the many supporting volunteers that have made it a success for all those kids needing help. Our tutors' presence back in the schools provide assistance for these kids in so many ways; not only our assistance with academia but also with their self-confidence. It may also help their mental health in many cases by demonstrating someone really does care. Our tutors benefit from a personal sense of giving back to the community and accomplishment while helping to build this generation into successful and productive individuals.

(taken from tutors4kids.org)

Why is Literacy Important?

Every important social issue is impacted by low literacy. When individuals learn how to read, write, do basic math, and use computers, they have the power to lift themselves out of poverty, lower health care costs, find and keep sustainable employment, and ultimately change their lives.

What do tutors do?

Tutors For Kids currently serves the Florida counties: Sumter, Lake and Marion.

Our tutors come from every walk of life. Some are educators, some are professionals, some are homemakers, some are electricians, etc. Some are retired. Some are still at work. All are volunteers.

All tutors share the same goal – to ensure that our future citizens are the best educated members of their communities.

During this time our tutors work with students that teachers identify as struggling in certain areas.

Primarily tutors provide help to students in reading, writing, arithmetic, and science. Often a tutor may identify that a child is having trouble in math because the student cannot read the problem. As a result this student will get tutoring in both reading and math.



How to Become a Tutor

Email your name, phone number, and email address to news@tutors4kids.org and someone will get back to you. Thank you for considering volunteering.

What about training for a new tutor?

Tutor Orientation and Training Programs – Before entering the classroom, all tutors complete a tutor orientation program appropriate to the class levels in which they will serve. Several times throughout the year, ongoing training is provided for tutors. General meetings are held with a topical presentation and discussion. The tutors also have an opportunity to exchange tips and to share information at these meetings.

A monthly newsletter, Tutors for Kids Inc. News, keeps the tutors and teachers informed with new ideas, educational resources and links to timely articles.



FOLLOW UP

ANNIE FETTER'S PRESENTATION

Last month we had some problems with the links for Annie's presentation. Here is the recap again. If you missed the presentation by Math

Education Specialist Annie Fetter on April 25, don't despair!

Helping Struggling Students Make Sense of Math Annie Fetter Talking With Tutors for Kids

Go to the link below and you will find a complete recap of Annie's presentation...and more!

- This includes a PDF of the workshop slides, links to YouTube videos illustrating Annie's stories with students Noticing and Wondering, and links to the articles written by Debbie Wile for our recent Tutors for Kids Newsletters.

- And an opportunity for you to comment and continue the conversation about Noticing and Wondering that we began at the meeting.

- The whole long URL is :

<https://annie.mathematicalthinking.org/index.php/2023/03/29/talking-with-tutors-for-kids/>

- Here's more information about Annie's work

<https://annie.mathematicalthinking.org/>

. For the protection of the students with whom you interact, you agree to the following. The volunteer:

- Agrees to act in good faith when tutoring students.
 - Is never to be alone with a student in a private place.
 - Is to only give students books approved by Tutors for Kids, Inc.
 - Gives students as rewards only certificates or other items approved by the teachers.
 - Only gives books from the approved Tutors for Kids inventory.
 - Goes only to the classroom to meet students unless directed elsewhere by a teacher or supervisor.
 - Will use good judgment when touching or consoling a student and will not engage in any inappropriate contact at any time.
 - Is never under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or behavior modifying medications when tutoring students.
 - Never condones or initiates crimes of violence, civil rights violations, hate crimes, sexual offenses, or similar actions.
 - Adheres to anti-bullying rules or statutes.
 - Only tutor children on school property during school time, and not in the student or tutor's home or outside the school environment.
- The following matters are not part of a volunteer's duties as a volunteer for Tutors for Kids, Inc., nor are they encouraged. Volunteers who participate in the following activities do so in their individual capacities, and not as tutors from Tutors for Kids, Inc.:
- Volunteering to go on field trips with students. This is an individual decision and a volunteer's own personal responsibility.
 - Tutoring students after school unless it is part of a program organized and supervised by the school.
 - Other such activities that are outside the scope of the volunteer activities with the Tutors for Kids program.

Failure to adhere to the foregoing guidelines will result in termination of the volunteer relationship between Tutors for Kids, Inc. and the volunteer. Volunteers understand they must notify Tutors for Kids, Inc., immediately if they have been charged with a criminal act involving drugs or alcohol or indicates the volunteer may be a danger to the students or their teachers.

I understand that this policy is for the protection of the child, my own protection and that of Tutors for Kids, Inc. Further, if I observe a tutor violating this policy, I will immediately report it to any Board Member, School Tutor Coordinator of Tutors for Kids, Inc. or an appropriate employee of the School in which the violation occurred. And, I agree that my signature on this policy is my acceptance to conduct my volunteer assignments in accordance with this policy

Tutor's Signature _____

Tutor's Printed Name _____

(Last, First Name) (Month, Day, Year) _____

Approved by the TFK Board of Directors 5-8-2023

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

At a recent Tutors for Kids board meeting a revised Tutor Volunteer Policy form was approved. Make certain you get a copy of the form, sign it, and return it to your school coordinator or mail the form to Bob Navarre, 2903 Cedar Grove Loop, The Villages, FL 32163. All current tutors must sign the form. The following is a copy of the form:

TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

Volunteer Tutor Policy

As part of the Tutors for Kids program, individuals volunteer their time as tutors and mentors at the invitation of local schools and teachers with which Tutors for Kids, Inc. interacts. As a volunteer for Tutors for Kids, you acknowledge that you are subject to and must adhere to the security clearance process of each school district. It is also your obligation to follow each school's check-in and check-out practice, as well as other specific school requirements as posted and provided, each time you are on campus.

(continued next column)

A 'SO-SO year - by Frank Russo

In a previous newsletter we said that school was just about over. Since this is June we know that our students have not given a thought to school. But as tutors we can use the summer to develop our tutoring skills. I did this each year. So, in this article we are going to look at tutors who feel they had a “so-so’ year.

This could happen to any tutor. Especially those who are tutoring for the first time. I had several ‘so-so’ years. One in particular stands out. I was tutoring three different 5th grade classes for students who were well below grade level in both reading and math. The school was a “F” school. I was there for almost 4 hours. The atmosphere at the school was not good. The students didn’t care. The teachers just sent me students, mostly trouble-makers. No teacher spoke a word to me until January when one finally broke the ice.

So, what to do? First stay ‘cool’. You know what to do because the students need help and they know it. Educationally, you know more than they do (**don’t forget this**). So, keep a pleasant face at all times. Smile. Spend some ‘chit chat’ time with your student at the start of each session. Show that you are interested in your student). Be patient. It may take a few weeks (or sadly a few months) before they accept your help. The younger students will respond more quickly. From the fifth grade on up ,they have developed a protective shield around themselves especially when it comes from their situation of being below grade level.

If your teacher has not provided any material for you to use, then go on the web to get small stories or problems that you can use in reading or math. Print them out and take them with you. Start at the level your student is (even if you are using materials your teacher has given you). Don’t constantly correct every word or math problem. Zero in on some basics. Congratulate your student on even a small success. The more your student starts to feel good about their ‘self’, the more they will enjoy their session with you. Praise is great when it really is over an accomplishment. So, you can maneuver your session to let the student have a few ‘wins’. Remember they don’t get many ‘wins’ when in a class of 18 – 20 students.

This is a good time to go to the link below and copy it into your web search engine which will take you to the Tutors for Kids website where you can see and read the workshop manuals in reading and math.

<https://www.tutors4kids.org/training/>

We would love to hear your feed back on your tutoring experiences from the 2022-2023 school year. Please email me at news@tutors4kids.org and tell us about your experiences. All replies will be confidential .

Tutor Recruitment for the Fall school year – It is time to start preparing for the Fall school year. It starts in the second week of August. That is not so far away.

What goes in to preparing for another school year. The following areas are something we need to do every year.

- Recruit and train new tutors. **You can help here** You, our current tutors, can be an immense help in our recruitment efforts. You more than anyone can talk to your friends, neighbors, neighborhood meetings, clubs, etc. about the need for tutors. Talk to them about tutoring and end by saying: “You need to do this”
- Publicize the need. **You can help here.** Before the pandemic we were tutoring 2600 students per week. Then there was the “two years” of lost education with on-line, at home, and a multitude of other attempts to keep our students safe and educated at the same time. When the schools opened again we had far few tutors who were able to return BUT the 2600 students who needed tutoring prior to the pandemic had had returned and their number had grown substantially.
- Our Book programs. **You can help here.** We realized a long time ago that our high number of Title One students did not have an extra \$20 to spend monthly on books and other reading materials. As a result, their in-school reading scores suffered dramatically. Tutors for Kids tried to solve the problem by giving out 15,000 new books each year to our students. Maybe your neighborhood or club could help us buy books. We have connections with publishers and can buy books way below retail cost. So, \$25 could buy 8 -10 books.

How Many Tutors Do We Need? – Currently we are in a rebuilding period due to the school closings during the Covid19 pandemic. As of this March we have 185 tutors working in 12 schools. In 2020, we had 500+ tutors working with 2600 students each week. Those students who need help have increased in numbers significantly. We need 315 tutors to reach our pre-pandemic numbers.

Preparing our Volunteers to Tutor – Many of our tutors have not been in a classroom for decades. Even many who were former teachers have not been in the classroom for a few years. So, everyone goes through an initial orientation with basics of the practical information for tutoring: How to sign up, which schools, grades, teachers, etc. After that there are two workshops available one on tutoring reading and the other on tutoring math.

We need volunteers to help us in training new tutors. The sessions usually occur twice a month during August and September. After that once a month through January. Each train session lasts about 2 hours. About 8 to 12 new tutor applicants attend each training session.

If you are interested in helping but have no background in training we will help you learn our system. Please contact Chuck Ramberg at CHR34190@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

HELP STILL NEEDED –

We have mentioned in the past that it takes a number of people working behind the scenes to help Tutors for Kids run smoothly. These volunteers' number in the dozens. Here are a few of our needs as described below:

Board Members – There are **two positions** open on our Board of Directors. The Board meets 5 times per year via Zoom. Meeting are on Monday from 3 – 5. The Board is an 'active' Board and each has additional committee responsibilities.

Assistant Treasurer – There is **one position** open to **SHADOW** our current treasurer. We have grants, state and federal reports to be filed, books for our students to be bought and paid for, and other traditional treasurer responsibilities.

Tutors needed – We tutor in twelve schools in Lake, Sumter, and Marion County. Each one of our schools is a Title One school and is struggling academically. We need dozens of tutors. If you have 90 minutes per week there is a student needing your help.

Programmers needed.- Our Systems Subcommittee need volunteers to help with our database, mail, Facebook, and other system issues

If you can help email us at

info@tutors4kids.org

Attention Access Programmers – We are in the initial stages for developing some tracking programs to help us in our book distribution program. We currently have given out over 15,000 new books each year to our students. With the State mandated program to approve all books given out to students we need to develop a distribution system for each county. Currently we are using software by Caspio. It costs us dearly for their form of licensing rights.

What do you need to have in order to volunteer? A good knowledge of Access, the ability to take user specs and translate them into system specs, and a background in database development, queries, and reports.

If you would like to volunteer contact Sterne Maher at sternemaher@gmail.com

Phone: 352-568-5843

Web:

www.tutorsforkidsinc.org

Email: tutors@tutors4kids.org

Address: 2518 Burnsed Blvd, Suite 339

The Villages, FL 32163

Generous Donors

