



# Math Partners Annual Report 2010-2011

## Summary

Since 2000, PENCIL Foundation's Math Partners program has provided academic support to over 4191 students attending Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS). Math Partners matches caring community volunteers with struggling math students in 2nd - 8th grades. This essential program works to increase student understanding and application of grade-appropriate math while providing on-going mentoring relationships with students. On a weekly basis, volunteers and students engage in fun, hands-on activities that build math skills and support a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts that students need in order to master high school mathematics. PENCIL provides a curriculum that specifically addresses grade appropriate topics, such as fractions and multi-step word problems, which are often problematic for students with weak math skills. State-mandated Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests now require students to not only solve problems, but also to explain how they were done. This ability to link math and language together is a new and difficult skill for many students. Discovery Education Assessment (DEA) results are used as a preliminary evaluation during the school year as a pre-post measure of grade level math and are intended to demonstrate whether or not a student makes a year's worth of academic growth.

## Accomplishments Math Partners:

- A total of 310 students in 15 middle schools (grades 5 through 8) have received tutoring assistance in weekly Math Partner tutoring sessions.
- A total of 375 students in 19 elementary schools (grades 2 through 4) have received tutoring assistance in weekly Math Partner tutoring sessions.
- A total of 210 volunteers currently serve as Math Partners in MNPS, contributing more than 5600 hours of service with an in-kind value of \$116,760.
- Discovery Education Assessment tests indicate that students in the program made significant academic progress in math. A random sample of students tutored by Math Partners between August 2010 and May, 2011 showed that 74% exhibited growth in their math proficiency score.
- A total of 12 college and university work-study students from Belmont University, Trevecca Nazarene College, Tennessee State University, Aquinas College and The Art Institute contributed more than 4320 hours of tutoring at 7 schools, helping approximately 276 students.
- A total of 11 Math Partners also served as ELL volunteers and worked with a number of Spanish-speaking and other students with limited English proficiency.
- The Meharry-Vanderbilt Student Alliance remains a supporter of Math Partners in providing tutoring and mentorship opportunities for medical, dental, and graduate students while maintaining its partnership with Haynes at John Early and West End Middle school.
- Community Family Resource Centers based at Fall-Hamilton and Bordeaux Elementary School coordinated with PENCIL Foundation and Math Partners to provide additional tutoring spaces for volunteers while providing extra resources to meet the social needs of children from particularly at-risk communities.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

While Math Partners is founded on an evidence- and outcomes-based platform, the program's positive impact is best measured by personal experience.

"PENCIL has created a robust history of providing high quality, results-based tutorial services that support academic achievement," said Jeff Keith, principal of West End Middle School. "We especially noticed that each tutor would come with a sense of expectation and accomplishment, and that energy was easily transferred to our students." Eric Rubinstein, chief operating officer of LetterLogic, Inc., is one of the Math Partners who brought that excitement to the tutoring sessions. "I personally took part in the program and took great pride in the fact that my pupils jumped almost two grade levels in math over the course of my tutoring," he said. "I also felt a tremendous sense of pride in the lessons I was able to instill in the students regarding hard work and how to apply educational concepts to the 'real world.' "

"The PENCIL Math Partners have been a tremendous support and help to the students at Bordeaux," said Judith Harrison, Consulting Teacher at Bordeaux. "The tutors are helping our students with their basic math facts, which is the foundation to success in math at all levels. We appreciate the time and efforts put forth by the volunteer tutors. Besides just gains in knowledge, the students expressed their enjoyment of the program as well."



Math Partner volunteer Janell Gilbert at Bordeaux Elementary Enhanced Option School

## **FUNDING**

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