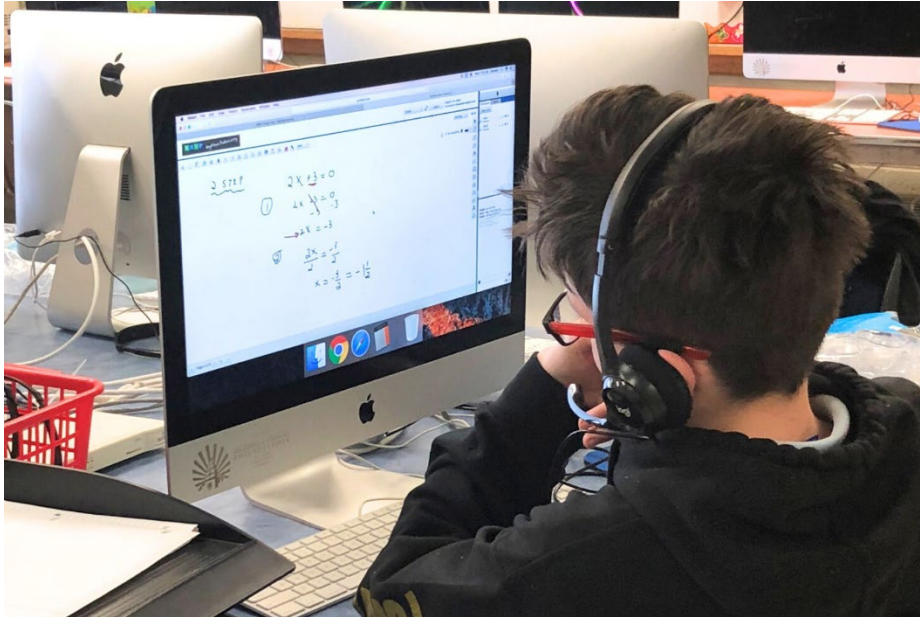


Math reimagined: RSVP's impact through virtual volunteering

<https://www.readingeagle.com/2024/01/24/math-reimagined-rsvps-impact-through-virtual-volunteering/>



A My Free Tutor student works online with his volunteer tutor for extra math help. (Courtesy of RSVP)

Math scores have steadily decreased nationwide since COVID-19 halted in-class instruction and changed education dramatically.

Students seem to be climbing back toward grade level in literacy and science fields but continue to struggle with math. Exams distributed by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed teenagers in the United States are performing significantly worse in math than before the pandemic.

Parents are looking to outside resources for individual after school attention in addition to school instruction. An hour or two a week makes a difference when students can focus on areas they struggle in with a tutor. While most schools offer a tutoring program, not each program is free or provides a meeting location for the tutor and student. Cue My Free Tutor.

My Free Tutor is an RSVP Volunteers program that connects volunteer tutors with students virtually for individualized mathematics help. Volunteers meet with the student once or twice a week using IXL, a diagnostic math program, that provides problems the pair can work through and solve together.

The program can detect where students are at a proficient level and where they can use more help. It has helped many children and parents who struggle with math assignments sent home.

“When the pandemic hit, my son was in third grade, and I had to assist him with online schooling, which was very stressful,” said a parent of a student who has been with the My Free Tutor program for three years. “RSVP Volunteers stepped in to ease that stress and became a supplementary teacher. My son’s volunteer tutor is very kind. I am beyond happy and greatly indebted to her volunteer service with my son.”

Volunteering with RSVP's My Free Tutor program is easy. Tutors are matched with a student, then provided with a Zoom room and log in to the IXL program. It is a flexible program that allows you to volunteer anywhere and works with your availability.

Volunteers work with their students throughout the school year to build a relationship that makes a difference. Parents begin to see a difference in their children's confidence due to this bond.

"The relationship that has been built between my daughter and the tutor is great," a parent said. "My daughter is more confident with math than at the beginning of the year."

Last year, volunteers and students worked together to solve over 22,800 questions in the program, with students achieving mastery level on 647 skills and proficiency level on 753 skills. The students in the My Free Tutor program continuously progress in math skills and confidence.

RSVP Volunteers recruits tutors for My Free Tutor year-round. The program covers a range of math levels and skills, tutoring students from third grade to college students and veterans returning to school.

Many volunteers have no prior teaching experience; the easy-to-use IXL program problems, solutions, a whiteboard, and ongoing student assessments make the volunteering experience easy.

To learn more about volunteering with RSVP Volunteers, email volunteer123@rsvpmc.org or call 610-834-1040, extension 123.

Visit <https://www.rsvpmc.org/virtual-math-tutoring> to learn more about the program and see it in action.