



CATHOLIC TUTOR CORPS

HELPING HEARTS, HELPING MINDS

SPRING
NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO SPRING 2024!

Written by **Richard McGuire, President**

We are getting deep into the second semester of this school year. In an effort to keep our tutors connected with one another, but to also share our mission and progress with people and organizations with interests aligned with the Catholic Tutor Corps, we will be sending out a newsletter periodically. With almost 70 tutors working in classrooms this year, some are new to the CTC and some have been with us for 10, 15, even 20 years. So, for those new to us, and not so new, a brief recap of where we have been may be in order.

In 2002 the CTC began with two tutors. Our mission then, and now, has been to give extra help to students who for a variety of reasons, have fallen behind their peers and need additional help in getting up to grade level performance. Over the next twenty years the CTC's corps of tutors grew to 80 tutors helping students in 12 schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul. As most of you know, when Covid arrived the lights went out in the schools and the tutors all went home. Over 2021 and 2022 our schools began welcoming tutors back into the classroom. Since that time, the CTC has been rebuilding it's efforts in the schools. The need for tutors in our schools only grew as a result of Covid. Many more students fell further behind as schools dealt with the pandemic, particularly students that CTC works with.

IMPORTANT DATES

Easter Break

- 3/29-4/5: Risen Christ, St. John Paul II, Ascension, St. Peter Claver,
- 3/22-4/1: Blessed Trinity, Sacred Heart, St. Alphonsus, Immaculate Conception, Community of the Saints, Annunciation
- 3/11-3/15: St. Helena
- 3/28-4/2: St. Jerome

WELCOME LETTER (CONTINUED)

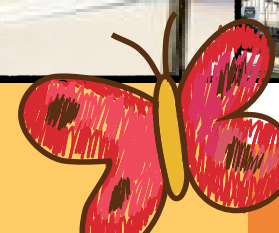
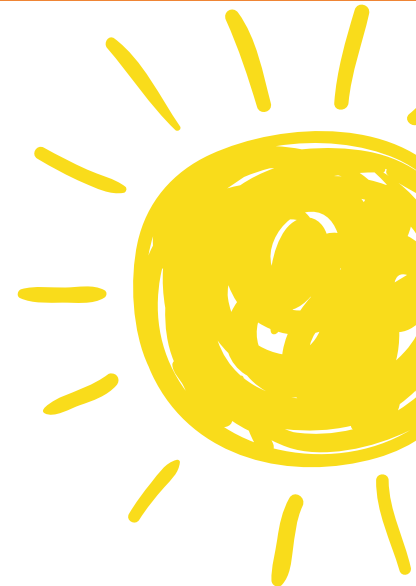
Currently CTC tutors are in classrooms at: Risen Christ, Blessed Trinity, St. John Paul II, St. Helena, Community of the Saints, St. Jerome, Ascension, St. Peter Claver, Sacred Heart and newly added schools: St. Alphonsus, Immaculate Conception, and Annunciation School. There is always a need for more tutors in most of these schools and there are schools that we currently do not serve that have reached out to us asking to be part of our program.

In the past we have partnered with a number of organizations to both recruit tutors and to obtain some funding for our work. In addition to working with many area parishes, the CTC has worked with the University of St. Thomas Law School, University of Minnesota Newman Center, the Catholic Community Foundation, St. Paul Seminary, and more. With an all-volunteer, grassroots organization like the CTC, our best marketing tool is our current tutors who share their stories and experiences with friends, family members, and work colleagues. We always welcome stories from our tutors talking about why they have enlisted in our mission and experiences they have had in working with students. Three of those stories are included in this newsletter. One tutor has been with us for about 8 years, another almost 20. Both started out tutoring one day a week and now go into the schools 2 or 3 days a week. That is a testament to how rewarding they have found the work. If you would like to share a story that can be included in a future newsletter, it is most welcome.

Our tutors come from many different places and backgrounds, all with varied connections and roots to their communities. Hopefully, as we continue to grow, we can tap into those diverse roots to connect with more generous people willing to sit shoulder to shoulder with these students teaching them, guiding them, mentoring them. The greatest reward that comes from this work is hearing those four magic words from a student.....Now I Get It!

Thank you to all of the tutors going into a classroom every week. And, if you know someone who would like to join us on this mission, or know an organization that might partner with us, go to our website, www.catholictutorcorps.com, or contact me directly:

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612-360-0677





A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR TUTORS:

Helping teachers, helping students, can lead to greater fulfillment



As someone who has worked in banking and financial management for over 35 years, I've never thought of myself as a curator or an artist. Sure, I had numerous positions...some longer than others. However, regardless of my employer or the client base I served; I had a burning desire that made me realize that creativity needed to take another form. My career most importantly, required that I abide by very strict compliance rules. These gave me the guideposts to be thorough and set strict standards by which my activities could be accomplished for my company and clients.

That all came to a screeching halt when I retired 8.5 years ago. However, thankfully, Sacred Heart School came into focus and provided me an opportunity to serve and care for people again. I traded serving and counseling busenss owners for teaching and mentoring students. Thanks to the opportunity the teachers and staff provided me, I began to realize that creativity can come from removal of conventional boundaries that were cemented into my previous day-to-day work environment.

But it's not about me. It's helping kids. This can come in many ways.

Helping students: For example, it's finding a quiet spot among less students for discussion of a book being read, reviewing flash cards to focus on those troubling ones...the times 7, 8's, or reading "chapter books" aloud to help comprehension and build vocabulary.

The Catholic Tutor Corps is a channel for coaching ideas. Through the tutor program, we can see what works and tap into the care we all have for students. It taps into the creativity we all have.

Helping teachers, helping students, can lead to a greater fulfillment of personality, caring, and shows the love of serving God.

John Kightlinger



MEET KEVIN CURRY

20 years plus of service

It's been quite some time since I started tutoring grade school children as part of the Catholic Tutor Corps.

I know it's been in excess of 20 years. That in itself should tell you that I've enjoyed it very much, and I also have received very good feedback from the teachers I helped. I'm confident that the kids I've helped over the years enjoy my tutoring them.

As they have moved on in school I occasionally run across some of them and they'll tell me how much they enjoyed working with me on their spelling, grammar and/or math - and that's what keeps me going.

I enjoy the "work", and I enjoy the positive results that I see! The positive feedback from the teachers also keeps me going.

So if you're considering aligning with the CTC, I recommend it highly!

Kevin Curry



MEET JOE MACCANI

How we can make a difference

I'm tutoring pre-algebra on Mondays and Wednesdays and helped one student with his science fair project this fall. I also occasionally tutor this same student in math.

One day when I was working on math with him in a conference room, he wanted to shut the door. I told him that I thought it would be best to leave it open and he responded, "I don't want anyone to hear how dumb I am."

The good news is that after the time we spent together, he was able to win the 7th grade science fair this fall and will be advancing to the regionals.

I could tell that this did wonders for his self-esteem. He seemed so proud to tell me the news and how **"everybody is talking about me today"**.

...Joe Maccani



HOW DOES TUTORING HELP STUDENTS?

FROM THE OXFORD LEARNING

There are many reasons parents choose tutoring for their children. Some parents feel unable to help their children with schoolwork. Others may find their children are more receptive to working through school struggles with another person. Tutoring can help strengthen subject comprehension, boost confidence, and build important learning skills.

Tutoring gives students individualized attention that they don't get in a crowded classroom. This helps children who struggle to keep up, as well as those who aren't challenged enough. It also keeps students on track during breaks from school, such as during March Break or during the summer.


WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TUTORING

Tutoring programs can help your child develop study and learning skills that will help set up your child for success for their entire life. There are many advantages of tutoring services:

Individual and unique learning experience: Your child will receive an individualized learning experience they can't always get in a classroom setting. Tutors can customize the lessons and activities just for your child.

1. **One-on-one attention:** Tutors get to know your child's individual learning style and can adapt teaching methods accordingly. They act as your child's own private teacher.
2. **Improves academic performance:** Tutoring will prepare your child for tests and exams while tutors work with your child on specific problem areas. Your child's grades and understanding of the subject will significantly improve when working with a tutor.
3. **Improves attitude towards learning and school:** Learning will become fun for your child. With constant encouragement and praise, your child will no longer feel overwhelmed or frustrated with school.
4. **Encourages self-paced and self-directed learning:** With tutoring, your child will learn to take the initiative with their schoolwork. Your child will also learn how to control their learning pace.
5. **Improves self-esteem and confidence:** Your child's self-esteem and confidence will increase through tutoring by providing them with the resources and skills they need to excel in school.
6. **Improves work and study habits:** Through tutoring, your child will learn work and study habits they will use for life. These skills will help prepare your child to successfully achieve their goals both inside and outside of school.
7. **Positive workspace:** Tutoring provides an environment free of distractions, with fewer students and disruptions around, so your child is better able to focus on learning.

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8. **Encourages independence and responsibility:** Your child will gain the ability to do school work on their own without your help. Your child will realize their own personal growth and will learn to take responsibility for their studies.
 9. **Helps overcome learning obstacles:** Your child's tutor will specifically target whichever aspect of learning they are having trouble with, whether it's writing, math, language, or reading.
 10. **Encourages the freedom to ask questions:** At school, your child may not always feel comfortable asking questions in front of their peers. Tutoring will help teach your child to be comfortable asking questions, big or small, without feeling self-conscious.
 11. **Improves social and behavioral skills:** Tutoring services will help your child become a better communicator, form better relationships with peers, and make more positive social and behavioral adjustments.
 12. **Increases ability to manage one's learning:** Your child will become more competent in his or her learning and more successful in managing his or her school work
 13. **Challenges those who need it:** Tutoring helps bored or under-stimulated children reach their full potential.
 14. **Prepares your child for college and university:** Students heading off to college will learn how to create study plans, develop advanced study skills, and learn superior time management skills. There are numerous benefits of tutoring in college and university, including reinforcement of existing knowledge and gaining a better understanding of a field of study.

-Oxford Learning Inc.





CATHOLIC TUTOR CORPS

HELPING HEARTS, HELPING MINDS

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

if you know someone who would like to join us on this mission, or know an organization that might partner with us, please contact me via phone, email or the website

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