

Math Buddies Annual Report 2023-24

Barbara Van Itallie, Chair May 11, 2024

Five Math Buddies from AAUW are working in three City of Poughkeepsie Schools this year: Kathy Martin, Kathy Smith, Vivien Simpson, Mary Ann Williams and Barbara Van Itallie. This is two more than last year. There are also at least two non-AAUW members also serving as Math Buddies.

All AAUW Math Buddies are finding experiences very worthwhile. We receive positive feedback from the teachers we work with and are invited back for the next school year. For the students that I work with at Krieger School, not only do I see their math skills improve, but also their confidence and willingness to participate in the class. The teacher that I work with is extremely pleased to have a Math Buddy, and finds it very helpful when he wishes to have the students do group work. Mary Ann helped out in this classroom while I was away.

Kathy Martin writes, "This year I worked with 4 young ladies in 5th grade at Clinton Elementary School. Their skills vary, but they are all willing learners. It has been fun working with them. It's cute when they don't want to go back to class, but want to stay and work on more math!"

Kathy Smith reported that her student is a delightful young girl, but who needs a lot of cajoling and encouragement. The teacher says she sees an improvement. Kathy says, "So I hope that although challenging, my tutoring made a difference in a young person's life."

Vivien says, "The two students I worked with were both eager and motivated, one lacked a lot of self-confidence and the other student was confident yet very impulsive. We established a fine rapport and personal connection. The teacher shared that they looked forward each week to math buddies."

We continue to be loosely connected to Literacy Connection which runs the successful Book Buddies program. They provide background checks regularly for our Buddies, at some cost to them. They are our link to the schools, provide training for our Buddies and have an end-of-year event for the children involved in their programs. AAUW Poughkeepsie has made an occasional donation to Literacy Connections in the past for the services that they provide, from funds previously set aside for STEM. I am the connection to Literacy Connections for this program

As always, I will attempt to recruit a few more Buddies for the next school year. I personally still find this volunteer activity extremely rewarding.