



A Program of The Actuarial Foundation

Math Motivators

Newsletter

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Volume I, Issue 2

National Edition

THANK YOU for your dedication to the program! Summer virtual programs are in session!

Math Motivation Across the Nation

Message of Solidarity: The Actuarial Foundation stands in solidarity with Black Americans and supports racial equality. There is much work to be done to close the racial achievement gap in the United States. The Actuarial Foundation is committed to its action-oriented mission and will continue to provide more math education opportunities for underserved communities and promote diversity within the actuarial profession through our scholarship programs.

Impacts of COVID19 School Closures on Learning: Initial research by the NWEA the University of Virginia, and Harvard and Brown Universities suggests profound losses in educational gain across the board, the result of school closures caused by COVID-19. Nearly all students have suffered some loss of academic gain. By the fall, vast numbers of students are projected to be months to a year behind where they would have been had the school year not be interrupted. School districts in rural areas and those with students who are Black, Hispanic, or of low socio-economic status have suffered the greatest losses in academic gains. Limited access to the technology or internet access required for remote learning is also an influence. In the fall, districts will be facing increased health and safety regulations and decreased budgets in addition to bringing students up to the level they need to be at to continue their education. Read the full article at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/05/us/coronavirus-education-lost-learning.html>.

Thank you to all our dedicated Math Motivators tutors for your service! We look forward to working with you, again, this coming academic year. As we currently are and will very likely be providing virtual tutoring to students, please know that we provide training in virtual tutoring. Our services are needed now more than ever, so we continue to recruit more volunteers.

Please visit our new VolunteerHub URL (<https://actuarialfoundation.volunteerhub.com/lp/MathMotivators/>) to checkout upcoming tutoring events and to register, if you are a new volunteer.

Announcements

Many Thanks to Our Most Recent Supporters!

The Actuarial Foundation would like to thank the Principal® Foundation for its recent grant to Math Motivators. The funding will support tutoring in Des Moines, Iowa at Roosevelt High School and North High School, which is entering its second year in the program. We are so grateful for the investment of Principal's charitable contribution and of its employees' volunteerism!

We would also like to thank UNUM for its recent grant to support tutoring in Portland, Maine at Portland High School and King Middle School. UNUM was instrumental in providing seed grant funding for Math Motivators' first year in Portland during the 2018-2019 academic year, and we are so proud to continue partnering with its Corporate Social Responsibility team and employee volunteers.

Math Motivators is offering interactive webinars for tutors.

Webinars available now:

1. Building Students' Self-Efficacy
2. Improving Students' Basic Skills
3. Virtual Tutoring

Coming soon:

4. Working 1-on-2
5. Adjusting Students' Behavior

Please be on the lookout for information regarding the next dates and times the webinars will be offered. Also, if you are interested in participating in a webinar, please contact your local program coordinator or the Math Motivators Program Specialist of Implementation, Korri Rich at Korrina.Rich@actfnd.org.

End-of-Year Surveys for tutors were sent to our volunteers over the past few weeks, and the results are rolling in. We greatly appreciate your willingness to complete the surveys, as we want to hear your voice and value your input. If you are a tutor and you did not receive the survey, please contact your local program coordinator or program manager Karen Lindebrekke (karen.lindebrekke@actfnd.org). **End-of-year Surveys for schools and centers** are ready to roll as well, so if you are a school or center administrator or teacher, please be on the lookout for the survey.

Math Motivators will be hiring part-time program coordinators in Boston, Lincoln-Omaha, Pittsburgh, and Santa Barbara this fall. If you or someone you know might be interested in a rewarding 10-hour/week job, please contact program manager Karen Lindebrekke at karen.lindebrekke@actfnd.org.

More Opportunities to Volunteer! The Modeling the Future Challenge (MTFC) program, which The Actuarial Foundation hosts in partnership with The Institute of Competition Sciences, is gearing up for next year! MTFC participants are presented with a real-world challenge in which they use mathematical modeling and data analysis to project trends and make recommendations to mitigate risks. The Actuarial Foundation is in need of volunteer judges and mentors. *Judges* review 5–10 papers and participate in two 1-hour phone calls in March. The symposium is a 2-day event, which may be virtual or in person, and each judge is scheduled to judge 2–3 presentations. Judges are, of course, welcome to watch other presentations that they are not assigned to judge. *Mentors* meet with teams (virtually or in person) to help students prepare their MTFC projects for submission. There will be two to three 1-hour meetings in January–March. Mentors are also encouraged to view students’ presentations at the MTFC event in April. If you are interested in becoming a judge, mentor, or both, or if you have additional questions, please contact Nichole Sempritt, Program Specialist, at Nichole.Sempritt@actfnd.org.

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Jim Broulette Volunteer Tutor, Seattle, WA

I graduated with majors in math and philosophy and a secondary teaching certificate.

My first teaching job was at a middle school in Gresham, OR. I loved the energy of 7th and 8th grade students; seeing the kids catch on, the “aha” moment when the light goes on, made it all worthwhile.

After 3 years, and the birth of our first child, an opportunity came to move closer to grandparents and to teach high school in Kent, WA. I taught there for six years at two different high schools before I took a job as an actuarial student for Milliman & Robertson (now just Milliman) in Seattle, my hometown. I studied for and passed and failed actuarial exams over the next 8 years. Milliman is an actuarial consulting firm, however my career path led me into software design of an in-house pension valuation system. A few years ago, one of the Seattle partners spearheaded Math Motivators in our office. We started a tutoring program with actuaries from local firms volunteering to help 9th grade students with Algebra. I was thrilled to be back in the classroom!

I am a firm believer in helping others. I believe the blessings I have received, education, job, family, are the result of many helping hands that reached out to me, so it is natural to want to give back. I also find that in giving, I receive. I just finished my 2nd year with Math Motivators at Franklin HS. With the help of a dedicated high school administrator, we finished this year with virtual tutoring. My advice to students is don’t give up! There are people who want to help. My advice to tutors is to learn and use your students’ names and ask questions as you go along. And be patient. It may be that the most important thing we are teaching is not math, but that the student we are working with matters.

Program Spotlight

Spotlight on Summer Virtual Tutoring in Chicago

Math Motivators launched a 4-week virtual summer math program in Chicago in July in partnership with Horizons for Youth. The sessions focus on core math skills to help the students review and be ready to use those skills as the foundation for new topics that will be introduced when they get back to school. The virtual program is delivered using Google Classroom and Zoom. This successful pilot program is expanding to several other cities, including Hartford, CT; Springfield, MA; Portland, ME; and to the Twin Cities, MN. We anticipate that schools will be even more interested in the Math Motivators tutoring program in the fall because of the expected steep learning losses due to the COVID-19 school closures.

Supporter Spotlight

Shine the Spotlight on Milliman, Inc.!

Milliman's support for The Actuarial Foundation began nearly 26 years ago and continues to grow. Their commitment to community well-being is evident in all they do, including their generous contributions to our youth education and scholarship programs as well as offering volunteer board members from their employee ranks.

In 2019, Milliman Inc. pledged a historic corporate gift to The Actuarial Foundation of \$750,000 over three years to invest in the growth of the Math Motivators program. Milliman's generous gift could not have been more perfectly timed, arriving at a tipping point that allowed the program's growing momentum to continue and accelerate with the needed funding to do so.

As a result of this significant investment, Math Motivators grew from serving nine cities in 2018-2019 to 19 cities in 2019-2020. Cities now include Bellevue (Washington), Bloomfield (Connecticut), Boston, Chicago, Des Moines, Hartford, Lincoln, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland (Maine), Santa Barbara, Seattle, Shelton (Washington), Springfield (Massachusetts), St. Paul, and Washington, D.C. All told, these cities host 42 tutoring sites. In Fall Semester 2019, 524 middle and high school students were served, and by the end of the year the number had surpassed 950 students! The volunteer engagement of Milliman's employees across the country is phenomenal, and Milliman's financial commitment to the program allows Math Motivators to remain nimble and effective by providing localized and regional support to school districts.

Thank you, Milliman, for championing math education! To learn more about Milliman visit <https://us.milliman.com/en/>.

The Math Motivators program is made possible in part thanks to the generosity of our donors, including individuals, companies and foundations. We are grateful for this opportunity to work with you to help students improve their skills in mathematics to achieve success. Call Wendy Moylan at (847) 273-8870 to learn how you can support the Math Motivators program.

Resources and Tutor Tips

Tutor Tip

This month's tutor tip comes from our *Building Students Self-Efficacy Webinar*

Getting students to believe in themselves and feel more confident with math often happens by asking the right questions. When a student is struggling to start have the student clarify what they are trying to solve for in the math problem. Next, find out what the student already knows about that concept and build off this. Help guide them to a solution by listening to the what the student says first, then direct them to the correct answer through questioning until they reach the correct answer.

Math Problem of the Summer

For some summer math fun, try your hand at The Crown Puzzle! Be sure to pay attention to details.

Answer to Last Issue's Math Problem

Yes, the lightning strike is within 1 mile of Benjamin Franklin. The lightning is approximately 4,500 feet or 0.85 miles away.

Math Motivation

Genius Puzzle Series #13

THE CROWN PUZZLE

$3 \text{ Crowns} = 24$

$2 \text{ Rings} + 1 \text{ Crown} = 22$

$2 \text{ Diamonds} + 1 \text{ Ring} = 19$

$2 \text{ Diamonds} + 1 \text{ Crown} = 16$

$1 \text{ Crown} + 1 \text{ Diamond} \times 1 \text{ Ring} = ?$

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Please consider donating to Math Motivators at <https://www.actuarialfoundation.org/donate-math-motivators/>
THANK YOU!

Math Motivators is a program of The Actuarial Foundation, 475 N. Martingale Road, Suite 600, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

www.actuarialfoundation.org/math-motivators-tutoring-program/