Tutor-a-Bull Makes an Impact

As a unique partnership between the USF College of Education, Hillsborough County Public Schools and MJH Children’s Charities, Tutor-a-Bull’s impact is two-fold. The program delivers individualized academic support to struggling middle and high school students in Hillsborough County’s most vulnerable schools, while at the same time affording meaningful opportunities for USF College of Education students to apply the knowledge and skills they are learning in the classroom to real-world situations. Students who might often slip through the cracks receive the individualized attention they need to succeed while tutors gain insight into what it takes to effectively motivate and engage struggling students.

Since its inception, the program has had a positive impact on more than 4,700 students by providing them with nearly 88,500 hours of individualized instruction at Title 1 schools throughout Hillsborough County. In the 2017-18 academic year, a total of 64 carefully selected tutors were placed across 15 schools in order to provide 6,400 hours of focused learning opportunities to nearly 700 students that were identified as needing their academic and social support.

A Brief History

Tutor-a-Bull is a vision of the late Mr. Olin Mott, a local businessman, philanthropist and community leader. As co-founder of the Friends of Joshua House Foundation, Inc., a shelter for abused and abandoned children, Mott first piloted the program at the Joshua House in 2007. The program was deemed so successful, that the following year, it was expanded to include three underserved local middle schools. Currently, Tutor-a-Bull tutors are making a difference in 15 area middle and high schools, including at the Joshua House, where the program first began.

Thank You

The success of the Tutor-a-Bull program is made possible in large part due to the spirited generosity of local businesses, community partners and friends who are committed to improving academic outcomes for disadvantaged youth in Tampa Bay. Donations are immediately put to work, inspiring and motivating students, supporting and encouraging teachers in training and providing benefits which extend well beyond the classroom and into the community at large.
Testimonials

“The reading teacher allowed me to run a small guided reading lesson today, which is something I have never done before. It was my first time using a lesson plan and guiding students through a reading activity, but the students were very much engaged. It made me both proud of the students as well as myself.”

Tutor, Jennings Middle School

“I’m learning more about myself and how I react in certain situations with students. I hope to bring the “starting fresh” mentality into my future classroom and communicate to students that each day is a new one.”

Tutor, Young Middle School

“When I first met my tutor she was helpful and I wasn’t afraid to ask her for help that I didn’t ask my teachers for help with.”

Student, Jennings Middle School

“That I really trust her, can ask her any questions I got without being shy or embarrassed, and my grades in Algebra went up a lot. I am really thankful for all that she help me in.”

Student, Adams Middle School

“She connects with our students and is very focused on their success…the students really enjoy working with her.”

Middle School Liaison

“I just enjoy how she can relate to all of her students.”

Middle School Liaison

“They help me through answering my questions that I would be nervous to ask.”

Student, McLane Middle School

“One success this week was having a student tell me that tutoring has been helping him so much that he got his first B ever on a math test!”

Tutor, Jennings Middle School

“I am really starting to get comfortable with my students. At first, I could tell they only looked at me as their tutor, but now they see me as someone who wants to help them to be successful in the classroom and in life.”

Tutor, McLane Middle School

“She is an excellent tutor who our students easily related to and felt they were making progress under her direction.”

Middle School Liaison