

Alumni & Friends Tutoring Center Report, SY 2025-26

~Sage Marsters, AFTC Director

This year, the Tutoring Center Report focuses on and celebrates **the power of our volunteer tutoring staff!** As our data confirms, our volunteer staff of **10 tutors** worked with **17 different teachers**, spanning **14 different subject areas (including Math, English Language Arts, History, Science, Pathways, English Language Learners, and Advanced Placement)** across grades 9-12. Together, we completed **997 tutoring sessions total**, with **605 sessions in classrooms**, and **392 sessions in the Tutoring Center**. **Sessions in the Tutoring Center engaged 100 students, 44 of whom participated in 5 or more tutoring sessions.** Our tutor Walter participated in the highest number of tutoring sessions, with a grand total of 272 sessions!

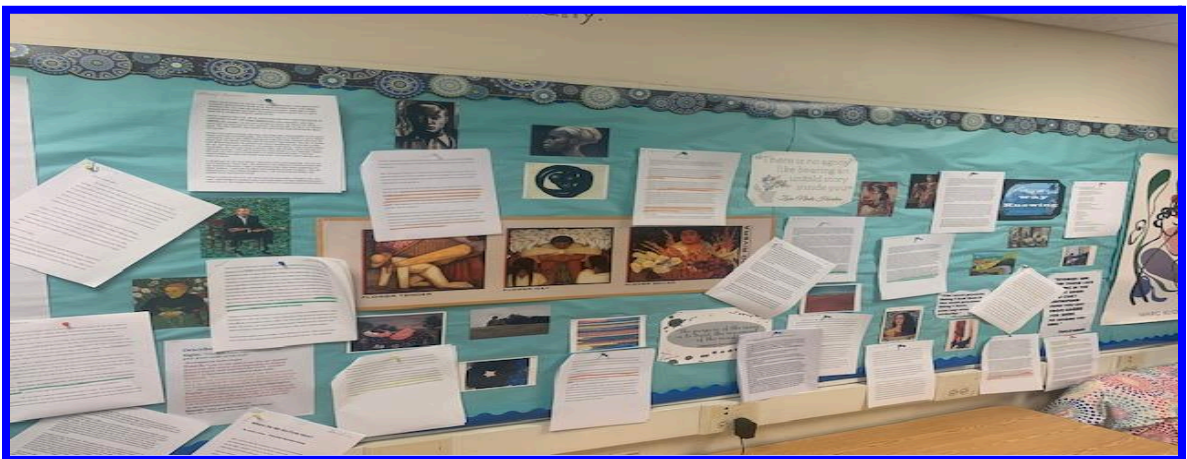
Some of our tutoring highlights this year include:

**These tutoring-classroom relationships highlight our flexible approach, through which we are able to meet the needs of diverse learners and tailor our work so that it is always responsive to student and classroom needs.*

- The **deep work between Walter and English Language Arts senior teacher Ms. de Guzman** and her student teacher, Ms. Rubenstein. Walter tutored in Ms. de Guzman's classroom 3 times a week, becoming a consistent support in the classroom as he worked with seniors through reading challenging novels such as Orwell's 1984, brainstormed with students as they developed presentations, and offered feedback on writing projects.
- The **creative and responsive relationship developed between Jon and Computer Science teacher Ms. Corbett**. Jon and Ms. Corbett worked together to better design classroom activities and respond to student needs.
- Our work with the Boston College Pulse Program and our tutor **Nora, who tutored with 9th graders in Ms. Gomes 9th grade Business Pathway**. As a business major, Nora was able to bring her expertise

into the classroom, and make connections for students between their learning and the college experience.

- **Our new tutor Rachel shared extensive knowledge and experience as a retired ESL teacher, and supported a 9th grade English Language Learner weekly with intensive 1-on-1 support,** engaging in practicing reading and discussion in English, and building vocabulary focused on the student's interests, such as baseball terminology. Rachel designed lessons, shared appropriate readings, and provided social-emotional support.
- **Cheryl and Jocelyn both supported Ms. Leonard's English Language Arts class, each visiting once a week to bring a group of students to the Tutoring Center,** where they could practice reading and discussion together. These lively sessions were full of laughter, learning connections, and confidence building.
- **Ms. Sage, Walter and Peter worked together to deliver PIE sessions each Tuesday focused on the college essay writing process.** Each Tuesday morning during PIE, the Tutoring Center was available to seniors only for writing sessions that began with one-on-one discussion focused on finding each student's powerful story, drafting, revision, and final editing.



Great Wall of College Essays

Data Breakdown:

Tutoring Sessions Completed by Type (997 total):

Tutoring Session Type:

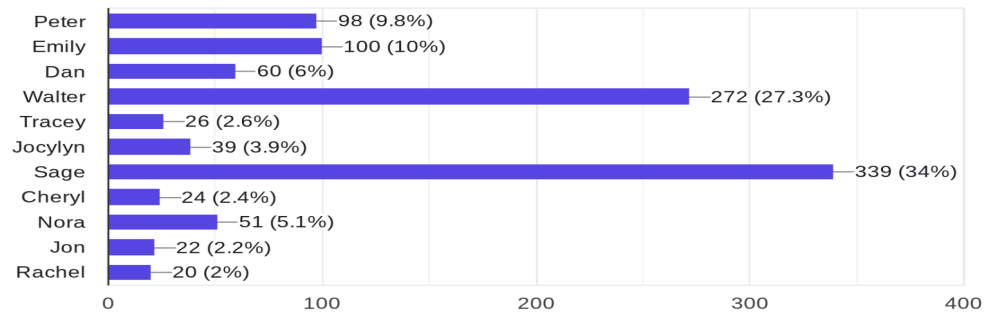
997 responses



Each Tutor's Participation:

Tutor's Name:

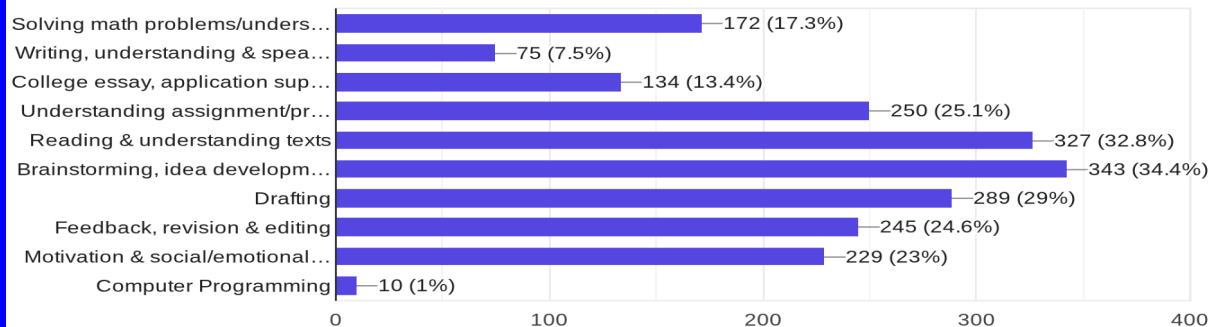
997 responses



Tutoring Session Focus:

Focus of Session:

997 responses



Get to know the Tutoring Center Volunteer Tutors better:

Discover the enormous and diverse talents and professional backgrounds our tutors bring to EHS, learn about the unique perspective each tutor brings into the classroom, check out the collective years our current volunteers have tutored (31!!), and develop your summer reading list based on their recommendations!

Emily



Years at EHS: 8 years tutoring!

Tutoring Focus: Calculus and Statistics with Mr. Jean Charles

Special Sauce: Deep understanding of teaching and learning built over years of experience, she brings insightful and unwavering support to the classroom

Career: Boston Public Schools history teacher, including six years at English High School

Interests: Trying to preserve democracy in the U.S., protecting the rights of immigrants, outdoor activities like hiking, biking, swimming, walking my dog & tennis

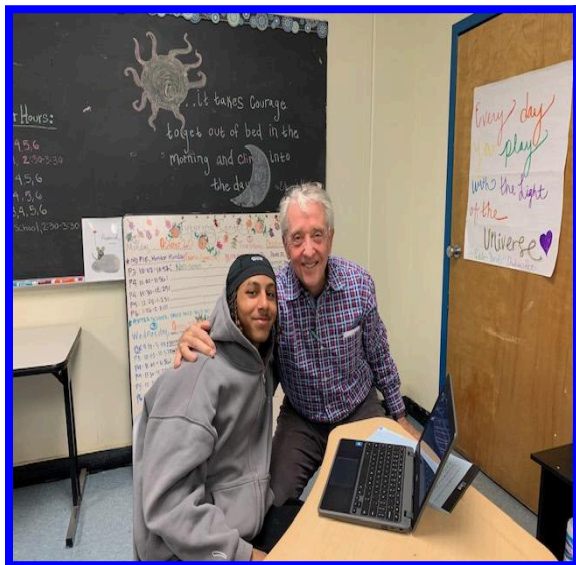
Favorite Sentence: “I am opposing a social order in which it is possible for one man who does absolutely nothing that is useful to amass a fortune of hundreds of millions of dollars, while millions of men and women who work all the days of their lives secure barely enough for a wretched existence.”

~Eugene V. Debs

Book Recommendations: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck; *Freedom Road* by Howard Fast; *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

Meaningful Memory: My earliest memory is of sitting on a swing when I was three years old, and having to wait for someone to push me, because I didn't know how to push myself. Then I remember when I was four years old and I learned how to push myself. I was very proud to be so grown-up.

Walter



Years Tutoring: 2, and continuing!

Tutoring Focus: Writing support in the TC, English Language Arts with Ms. de Guzman & Global Issues with Mr. Swoboda

Special Sauce: A life long learner who is always willing to grow, and brings his genuine curiosity and interest to each student, teacher and classroom, plus he makes us brownies!!

Career: Discovering new drugs to treat cancer

Interests: Puttering in my workshop while music is blasting

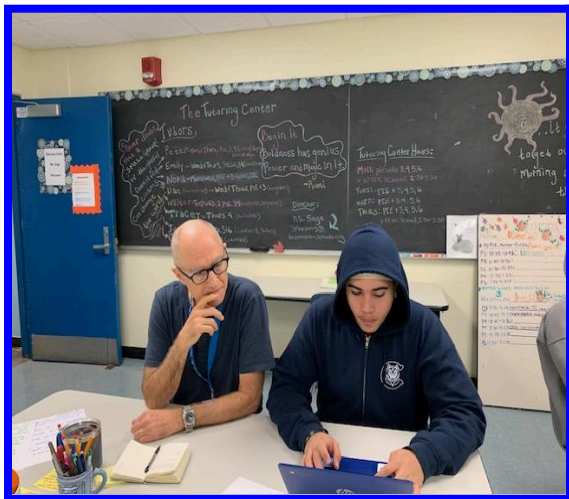
Favorite Sentence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Book Recommendations *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston; *The*

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison; **The House of Sand and Fog** by Andre Dubus III

Meaningful Memory: As the oldest of seven, I selfishly coveted the time driving around on Saturday mornings with my dad making house calls. As I waited in the car, he attended to his patients. Even now I cherish the hours we spent talking in our battered green and yellow 1953 Chevrolet Bel-Aire, unconcerned it lacked even the most primitive of safety features, like seat belts, knowing I was safe in his presence.

Peter



Years Tutoring: 3, and continuing!

Tutoring Focus: Writing support in the TC, English Language Arts with Ms. Hernandez-Vargas, History with Ms. Cusack & Environmental Science with Mr. Hayes

Special Sauce: Brings real world writing experience into the classroom, loves to notice the spark of interest in students and coax the flame, sharing his own experiences and interests

Career: Journalist, writer, editor and audio producer

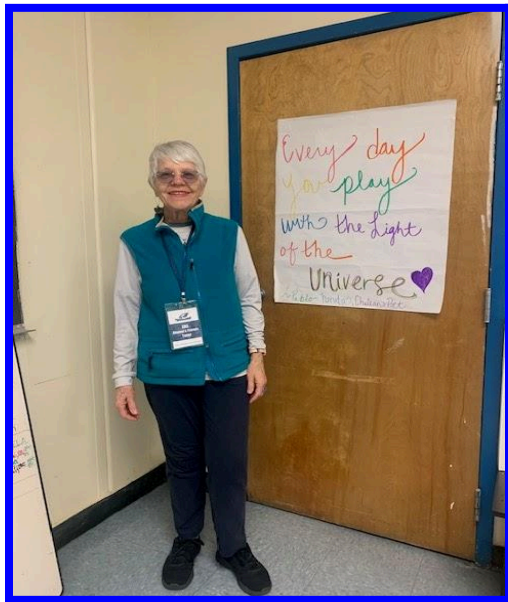
Interests: Music, world events, writing, reading, traveling and exploring new places, hanging out with my family & friends, playing basketball, running and bike riding

Favorite Sentence: “He still wanted to try to write, wanted to work with language because he liked how he could make up new thoughts when writing that he never would have thought.” ~Tommy Orange

Book Recommendations: *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith; *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead; *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin

Meaningful Memory: In 1971, when I was 12, I left school in my wealthy white Boston suburb and started at an almost all-Black school in Roxbury as part of a radical experiment in school desegregation and cultural exchange. That year changed my life, and the lives of a lot of my classmates. 50 years later I wrote about my experience in The Boston Globe newspaper.

Rachel



Years Tutoring: Started this year, and plans to continue!

Tutoring Focus: English Language Learners, has worked with Ms. Trono and Ms. Jacobs

Special Sauce: Patient, calm and clear, creative and diligent in finding the best ways to support individual students

Career: Bilingual-ESL teacher, in Chelsea, Cambridge, Nicaragua and India (where she was born). Rachel has done volunteer work on women's liberation, anti-racism, immigrant rights, housing justice, environmental justice, community organizing for peace, and solidarity with El Salvador

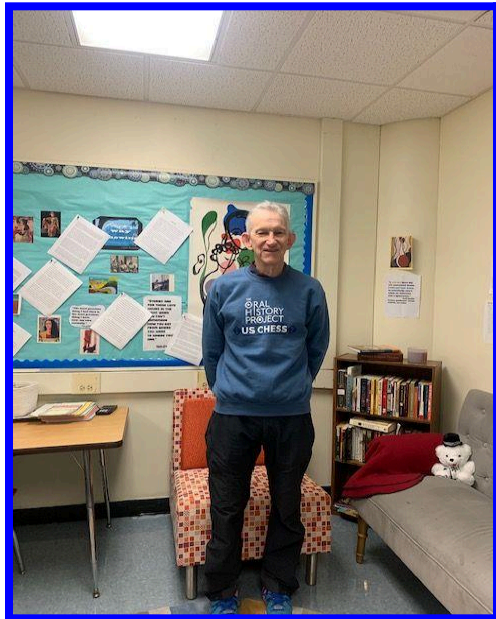
Interests: Choral singing, reading, walking her dog, hiking, connecting with people of all ages, standing out for democracy, traveling to California to visit family, spending time in Maine watching the sunset, and bailando salsa y merengue con mis amistades.

Favorite Sentence: “Leaders who do not act dialogically, but insist on imposing their decisions, do not organize the people—they manipulate them. They do not liberate, nor are they liberated: they oppress.” ~Paulo Freire

Book Recommendations: **Wild** by Cheryl Strayed; **Eat, Pray, Love** by Elizabeth Gilbert; **The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd; **The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett; **The Water Dancer** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Meaningful Memory: I lived in the foothills of the Himalayas in the 1960s. During the monsoon, when the rain stopped in the late afternoon, my mom would say, “Let’s walk up to the top of the hill, I think the snows are out.” The clouds of mist were drifting away, opening up the view of the eternal snow mountains of the high Himalayas. For me, this was heaven.

Jon



Years Tutoring: Started this year and plans to continue!

Tutoring Focus: Computer Science with Ms. Corbett, chess during PIE, and math

Special Sauce: Willing to be flexible and learn new things to meet the needs of different classrooms, cares deeply about EHS and the students and teachers!

Career: 20 years teaching mathematics at Northeastern University, 10 years teaching at different middle schools and high schools in Boston, and then

back to teaching college students at Roxbury Community College and UMass Boston for 15 years.

Interests: Mathematics, physics, cats, and right now saving Franklin Park from developers so that it remains a resource for the people living in Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Jamaica Plain.

Favorite Sentence: “I’d prefer to live in a world run by rational people.”
~Serge Lang

Book Recommendations: **Flatland** by Edward Abbott; **Gulliver’s Travels** by Jonathan Swift; **Alice in Wonderland** by Lewis Carole

Meaningful Memory: I love thinking back to when I would drive around with my dad when I was very young. I’d close my eyes while he drove. It’s a peaceful memory.

Cheryl



Years Tutoring: 4, and continuing!

Tutoring Focus: English Language Arts and History, works with Ms. Leonard and Ms. Cusack

Special Sauce: Always ready to laugh, empathetic and kind, brings positive energy to the classroom, making learning more enjoyable for students

Career: Social work

Interests: Reading, mostly fiction, writing poetry, studying Buddhist philosophy and meditation, and swimming wherever I can: pools in winter, lakes and the Maine ocean in summer.”

Favorite Sentence: “His houses were renowned for sumptuous preparations

of turtle soup and fresh shad, and for fine chilled drinks: iced champagne and incomparable mint julep—kept frosty cold with ice dredged from New England waters.” ~ Ilyon Woo

Book Recommendations: **Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese; **Stones from the River** by Ursula Hegi; **The Dovekeepers** by Alice Hoffman

Meaningful Memory: After college, I worked as an au Pair in Paris taking care of two small children and roaming the wonderful city. I left fluent in French, but now I am struggling with Spanish!

Dan



Years Tutoring: 5, and continuing!

Tutors Focus: Math! Ms. Singleton, Ms. Chen and Ms. McNicol

Special Sauce: Unflappable and always steady, comes in ready for anything and always open to whatever the classroom brings!

Career: Software Engineer

Interests: Travel, reading, hiking, and biking

Favorite Sentence: “You’re braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” ~Winnie the Pooh

Book Recommendations: **The Color of Water** by James McBride; **The Signal and the Noise** by Nate Silver

Meaningful Memory: I have wonderful memories of talking with my parents about their childhoods and about my grandparents, who were immigrants

from eastern Europe. I still remember their stories, but I wish I had asked even more questions at the time.

Nora



Years at EHS: 1 year, Intern through the Pulse Program at Boston College
Tutor Focus: College essay support In the TC, and the Business Pathway with Ms. Gomes

Special Sauce: Kind and driven, bringing determination and boundless energy into the classroom, even on the hard days!

Career: Student at Boston College

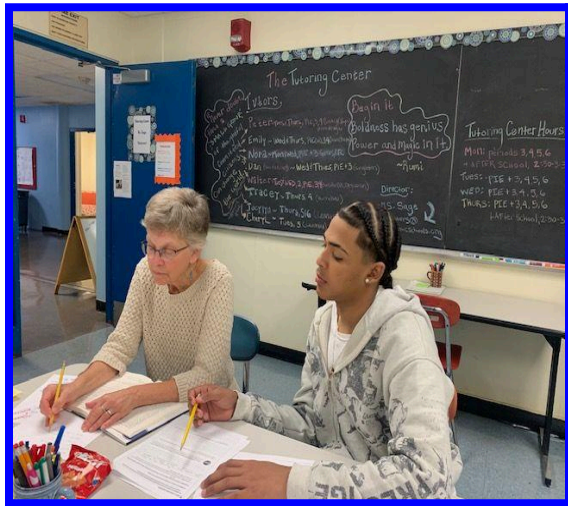
Interests: Basketball and dance

Favorite Sentence: "I believe the nicest and sweetest days are not those on which anything very splendid or wonderful or exciting happens but just those that bring simple little pleasures, following one another softly, like pearls slipping off a string." ~Lucy Maud Montgomery

Book Recommendations: **All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr;
Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Meaningful Memory: In the mornings during the summer my dad and I would walk down to our local market and get donuts for my whole family. On these walks my dad and I would pick wildflowers to give to my mom, and we were able to talk about everything and nothing. I loved how no topic was too big or too small and how my opinion was important to him on all topics.

Jocelyn



Years Tutoring: 4

Tutoring Focus: English Language Arts & History, works with Ms. Meadezinger, Ms. Leonard & Ms. Silas

Special Sauce: A calm presence in the classroom, able to break down complex or overwhelming material into step by step processes that are approachable and student-friendly!

Career: Middle and high school humanities teacher, teaching English in Beijing for 1 year, volunteer work for domestic violence victims, youth mental health, food rescue, and a wilderness first responder

Interests: Cooking & baking vegan food, playing ultimate frisbee, hiking, singing, and reading!

Favorite Sentence: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." ~Unknown origin

Book Recommendations: **Nickel and Dimed** by Barbara Ehrenreich; **Wicked** by Gregory Maguire; **The Time Traveler's Wife** by Audrey Niffenegger; **The Sparrow** by Mary Doria Russell

Meaningful Memory: My father and I both loved to sing together, especially to make up new crazy or silly words to existing music. We lived on opposite sides of the country, so we didn't see each other often, but when we did, making music together was our thing.

Tracey



Years Tutoring: 2, and continuing!

Tutoring Focus: Ms. Buchalski

Special Sauce: Always interested in growing her tutoring skills, ready to learn alongside students, and up for any new experiences

Career: Lawyer for nonprofit and philanthropic organizations

Interests: Reading, travelling, snowboarding, yoga, tennis, kayaking, hiking, spending time with my kids, volunteer work, trying (but failing) to learn Spanish, and collecting antique bottles

Favorite Sentence: “Now small fowls flew screaming over the yet yawning gulf; a sullen white surf beat against its steep sides; then all collapsed, and the great shroud of the sea rolled on as it rolled five thousand years ago.”

~Herman Melville

Book Recommendations: **Educated** by Tara Westover; **David Copperfield** by Charles Dickens; **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathaniel Philbrick; **Bel Canto** by Ann Patchett

Meaningful Memory: I remember wanting to play little league baseball when I was a kid and being told I was not allowed because it was only for boys. That’s when I decided I would be a feminist and always on the lookout for injustice.

Ms. Sage Tutoring Center Director



Years at EHS: 14

Tutoring Focus: Intensive writing support, TC drop-in services, & college essays

Special Sauce: A listener who deeply values the story each student and tutor brings into the Tutoring Center

Career: Teaching preschool, middle school, high school, college students and adults, writing fiction, and creating the Tutoring Center

Interests: Growing veggies, flowers and herbs in the community garden, cooking for my family, hanging out with my daughter, reading in cozy spots like my favorite green chair, hiking, and swimming in the ocean, pools, lakes, rivers and ponds!

Favorite Sentence: “Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—over and over announcing your place in the family of things.” ~Mary Oliver

Book Recommendations: **To the Lighthouse** by Virginia Woolf; **Cathedral and Other Stories** by Raymond Carver; **Enormous Changes at the Last Minute** by Grace Paley; **Tuck Everlasting** by Natalie Babbitt

Meaningful Memory: I remember a rainy day spent with my little brother and my Dad on Squam Lake in New Hampshire, when I was about 7. I loved walking in the rain, the green, living smells of the moss, the leaves, and the lake, the feeling of my brother’s hand in mine, and the warm lunch of Campbell’s tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches that followed.