

Math Buddies Annual Report 2017-18
Barbara Van Itallie, Chair
With assistance from Judy Connelly, Literacy Connections

Math Buddies continues into its second year. This is a joint project with Literacy Connections, and a spin-off of their very successful Book Buddies program. Volunteer Buddies are from AAUW and other organizations as well. Current AAUW Math Buddies are Martha Brajuha, Kathy Friedman, Suzanne Turetzky, Roberta Tracy and Barbara Van Itallie, out of a total of 12 Math Buddies in four schools.

Book Buddies go into a City of Poughkeepsie school typically once or twice a week to work one-on-one or in the classroom with students who need extra math help. Judy Connelly does all of the administrative work, including obtaining background checks on the volunteers, preparing materials for the volunteers and matching the volunteer to a teacher. I recruit AAUW Math Buddies using the AAUW membership database looking for members interested in STEM, writing an article for the Branch, and speaking about the program at a meeting.

Year one was a pilot program and we continued for a second year. We added more Buddies from outside of AAUW but no new ones from AAUW.

AAUW contributed \$200 to the project last year but there is no request for funds this year.

Judy Connelly sent the following response from my classroom teacher: "Having Mrs. Van Itallie in my classroom as a Math Buddy has been a wonderful experience. She is in the class while I am teaching and works one-on-one with students to help ensure they understand the lesson. The students very much look forward to the time they spend with Mrs. Van Itallie and it is really helping their understanding of new concepts." I personally find being a Math Buddy a very rewarding experience.

Teachers continue to ask for Math Buddies but we do not have enough. I have not been able to recruit any new Buddies this year. STEM is an AAUW priority but we have little presence in any STEM area. I will continue to look for new recruits.

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