

Math Buddies Annual Report 2018-19  
Barbara Van Itallie, Chair  
With assistance from Judy Connelly, Literacy Connections

Math Buddies continues into its third year and the program is growing slightly. 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 Mary Lou Davis, Maria DeWald, Kathy Friedman, Kathy Martin, Suzanne Turetzky, Roberta Tracy and Barbara Van Itallie, out of a total of 22 Math Buddies in five schools. These 22 buddies reach about 300 students (some in classroom settings).

Book Buddies go into a City of Poughkeepsie or Arlington elementary 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 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 by 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.

For this third year we added a few new buddies but lost some to become Book Buddies.

I have requested that AAUW contribute \$200 to the project this year to help pay for supplies, training, background checks and other needs. Literacy Connections covers most of the administrative costs of this initiative.

Judy Connelly tells us that the response from teachers that have Math Buddies in their class is extremely positive. Not only do the children receive help with their math but also have another adult showing interest in them. I personally find being a Math Buddy a very rewarding experience.

Teachers continue to ask for Math Buddies but we do not have enough of them. I was pleased to have a few 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.