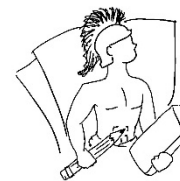


# Peer Tutoring 2018-2019

## Frequently Asked Questions

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APPLICATIONS ARE DUE Thursday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m.

### What is the Peer Tutoring course?

Peer Tutoring is a selective elective open to 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students that will entail an in-depth study of how people learn. Students will receive intensive training in how to use effective tutoring techniques to help their fellow WSHS students in the Peer Tutoring Center. Students will investigate how individuals build literacy skills, understand concepts, and acquire knowledge across the disciplines. Students will become experts on analyzing problems and processing information as it relates especially to math and sciences. Students in Peer Tutoring 1 & 2 work with Advanced Composition 3 students to manage and staff the Peer Tutoring Center. Tutors are also responsible for various managerial tasks such as data collection, planning events, tutor scheduling, record-keeping, and designing commercials/posters.

### What qualities do peer tutors have?

- A sincere and genuine desire to help peers – kindness and compassion
- Dependability and commitment to an organization and a peer group
- Personal responsibility, excellent time management, self-motivation and self-direction
- Comfort in communicating with peers and adults
- Interest in helping others figure out an answer rather than telling someone an answer
- Advanced critical thinking in one or more of the following disciplines:
  - **Language Arts** -- ability to write effectively, utilize the revision process, and read texts closely and analytically
  - **Math and problem-solving** – ability to approach problems in a logical way and utilize a step-by-step process to achieve a goal
  - **Science** – ability to understand scientific concepts and the scientific method
  - **Social Studies** -- ability to learn about historical events or historical periods and analyze them
  - **World Languages** – ability to write, read, speak, and listen effectively in a language other than English

### What is the Peer Tutoring Center?

The Peer Tutoring Center is an expansion of the Writing Center. It offers peer tutoring in all disciplines. Since opening in October of 2010, more than 3000 tutoring sessions have taken place through our program. Peer Tutoring students will serve as tutors during class time as well as a certain number of after school hours required for the course (approximately 3 total hours a quarter).

### What do I get from being a peer tutor?

- **Recognition.** You will gain distinction in the school from your peers and teachers as a WSHS peer tutor. It's also a great resume boost and looks good on college applications.
- **Training.** All students selected to be tutors will have the unique opportunity to learn about knowledge acquisition — this will not only benefit your tutoring, but will also prepare you for the demands of college and the workplace. This course is especially relevant for students entering a helping profession such as teaching, counseling, or medicine.
- **Improved Academic and Study Skills.** As you help others problem-solve and learn, you will see tremendous benefits in your own academic work. You can also make an appointment with another tutor when you are “off duty.”
- **Service Hours.** Tutoring beyond the course requirements can count as service hours, so you can help your peers and yourself at the same time!
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills** - Through Peer Tutoring, students become more capable 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners and actors – i.e. more capable critical thinkers, communicators, creators, and collaborators.
- **Improved Interpersonal skills.** As one past student put it, “I have gained social skills I hadn't even realized I had lacked in the past.” Many of the skills you'll learn in our tutor-training lessons are applicable to non-tutoring situations.

## What does a peer tutor do?

A peer tutor offers feedback and assistance by being a “coach on the sidelines,” not by doing the work for the student. Peer tutors use effective tutoring techniques such as questioning, modeling, and responding as a reader. This tutor might assist with any part of the learning process, including the following:

- Understanding an assignment
- Understanding or reviewing a concept taught in class
- Studying for a quiz or test
- Brainstorming for a paper or project
- Giving feedback on a draft or outline
- Serving as a practice audience for a presentation
- Assisting with homework
- Offering tips on time management and organization

To see what a tutoring session looks like, visit our Youtube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/theWSWC> and watch the videos titled “What We Don’t Do” and “What We Do.”

## What would my commitment as a peer tutor entail?

- **Time.** Aside from tutoring during class, you will be expected to sign up for a few after-school sessions per quarter. Tutors choose tutoring dates that work with their extracurricular/academic responsibilities.
- **Dedication.** We are looking for students who are interested in helping their peers learn. The Peer Tutoring course will teach you what you need to know to have successful tutoring sessions.
- **Open-mindedness and Patience.** Because you will be working with a diverse group of tutors and tutees, these traits are very important.

## Who can take this class?

Any rising 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade student can apply to this selective class. If you think you have what it takes to be a great tutor and you’re a responsible student, please apply and add it as one of your electives when you go to Course Registration. We will notify you about your acceptance status by Friday, February 9.

## What do past peer tutors have to say about their experiences? Go to <https://tinyurl.com/PeerTutoringVideo>

- “One of the most practical classes I’ve taken in a while... I’ve learned to teach just as much as how to learn.”
- “Applying for this class is one of the best decisions I have ever made.”
- “Do not let ‘I don’t know how to tutor’ prevent you from taking the class. Ms. Goransson helps teach you how to tutor.”
- “I am now better at listening to others and seeing both sides of an argument instead of being one-sided. I learned also not to bash someone immediately in a disagreement but instead to find the positives. This is the biggest benefit I have received from being a tutor.”
- “The best part of tutoring has been meeting a ton of new kids and seeing a new view of writing.”
- “The ongoing projects, minor homework assignments, and after-school tutoring sessions aren’t hard to fit in so long as one plans ahead.”
- “I enjoy the people in the class because everyone is so friendly and helpful.”

**How do I apply to take the class?** Obtain an application from room 1123 or the Peer Tutoring webpage:

[http://www2.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs/academics/peer\\_tutoring.html](http://www2.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs/academics/peer_tutoring.html) . Submit your completed application to Ms. Goransson or email it to [WSHSWritingCenter@fcps.edu](mailto:WSHSWritingCenter@fcps.edu) by **3:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 25!** Note: the application includes two teacher rec forms; make sure to give your teacher recommenders sufficient time to complete their portion! Teacher rec forms are due by Friday, January 26.

**Come visit the Peer Tutors in room 1123 to see us in action! Our hours:**

**ALL LUNCHESS Mondays through Wednesdays**

**AFTER SCHOOL on Wednesdays until 4 p.m.**

Questions? Email Ms. Goransson ([JGGoransson@fcps.edu](mailto:JGGoransson@fcps.edu))