



Since 2012, the Math Corps at Cleveland State University, an outreach program with a powerful mentoring component, has worked to provide middle and high school students in the greater Cleveland area with the kinds of educational and lifetime opportunities that all kids deserve. In a city where the dreams of children are so often unfulfilled, the Math Corps is about making a difference and changing lives.

The Math Corps at CSU is a branch of the Wayne State University Math Corps, a program begun in 1992 that has gained national attention and widespread acclaim. As one of the leading programs in the country, WSU Math Corps has recently received the NY Life Foundation's 2016 Excellence in Summer Learning Award. It has also been the subject of an award-winning documentary on PBS; has been recognized by President Clinton and by President Obama's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence; and is a recent recipient of a \$3M grant from the National Science Foundation.

The Mission

At its core, the Math Corps holds a simple but unwavering belief – that all children have a unique and special greatness within them and that, through hard work and a commitment to excellence and with the support of a caring family or community, that greatness can be realized. The Math Corps believes that the surest road to realizing that greatness lies along the path of simply being yourself. It is the mission of the Math Corps, using mathematics as its tool, to help as many children as possible realize their own particular greatness.

The Philosophy and Main Principles

The Math Corps philosophy stands on the following two basic principles:

1. High standards and expectations should be held at all times for every student in the program with regard to both academics and character, and without regard to either past performance or background.
2. A sense of family should exist, whereby every student in the program is cared for as an individual, is supported non-academically as well as academically, finds friendships and mentoring relationships that are both meaningful and long-lasting, and is made to feel that he or she belongs to something very special.

The Program

The Math Corps at CSU Summer Camp (grades 7, 8, 10-12) is a six-week program serving about 120 students each year on Cleveland State's campus. Students receive math instruction in both basic and advanced topics while being immersed in a culture of excellence. The core values of kindness, integrity, and courage are promoted throughout the program along with a powerful sense of family. The high school students serve as "big brothers" and "big sisters" to the younger students, while faculty and college students serve as mentors. All participants are held to strict standards with regard to attendance, homework and behavior, but having fun is considered to be the program's most important requirement.

Community Engagement

We are committed to being a good community neighbor, having partnered with Esperanza, NASA, Central Promise Neighborhood, Case Western Reserve University, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, East Cleveland City Schools, Horizon Science Academy, Innovative Schools of CMSD, Orange City Schools, and Pathways/Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

Within Cleveland State University, we have collaborated with the College of Science and Health Professions, College of Education and Human Services, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and College of Engineering.

Results and Outcomes

- During the program, scores typically increase from pre-test averages of 30% to post-test averages of 80%.
- In program evaluations,
 - 93% of middle school students agree with the statement, "I feel confident I can succeed in math."
 - 100% of parents agree with the statement, "I feel my child learned a lot in this program."
- Many participants become students on the CSU campus through
 - the College Credit Plus program;
 - admission and enrollment as freshman in a CSU undergraduate program; and
 - transfer to CSU from other universities.