

Norski Buddies: Peer Tutoring Program

Over the past several years, DeForest Area School District elementary schools have used reading buddies to develop leadership skills for 3rd and 4th grade students. We are expanding this into a peer tutoring program, which we're calling "Norski Buddies". Norski Buddies is a cross-age, peer tutoring program where learners help one another. In 2014-15, all 3rd and 4th grade students will have the opportunity to work with younger students.

A well-organized peer tutoring program like Norski Buddies will enhance the caring climate of our schools as students invest in each other's success. It also aligns with three of the DASD's Learning Goals: Knowledgeable Person, Collaborative Worker, and Socially Responsible Citizen. Details about Norski Buddies are included below.

- 3rd and 4th grade students will be paired with kindergarten or 1st grade students for 10 minutes once every two days.
- Kindergarten and 1st grade students will work with an older student on literacy skills and other building blocks at their individual level and can progress at their own pace. Math will be included in the future.
- No student will be required to work with a Norski Buddy, but all students will be invited and encouraged to participate.
- Kindergarten students will be pre-screened to determine the appropriate skills to work on for individual students.
- For this first year, individual lessons include: letter names with picture support (in order and scrambled), letter names without picture (upper and lower case, in order and scrambled), letter sound with picture support (scrambled), letter sound without picture (lowercase, scrambled), vowel sounds, high frequency sight words, and comprehension checks.

Peer tutors, like Norski Buddies, have been used in education for centuries. There is an old saying: "To teach is to learn twice." Both students who are tutored and those tutoring benefit.

Benefits of peer tutoring for the tutor:

- Explaining the subject matter to others helps the tutors better understand it themselves. As educators know, the very process of teaching causes learning.
- Reinforcing their own skills
- Developing a sense of responsibility
- Challenging students by assigning tasks that are meaningful, challenging, and open-ended
- Increasing self-confidence
- Improving reading achievement

Benefits of peer tutoring for the student being tutored:

- Improving reading achievement
- Improving relationships with peers and social development
- Receiving feedback from fellow learners
- Increasing motivation
- Increasing the amount of class work that students complete

Please ask your student about their Norski Buddy experience! And, please connect with your classroom teacher to share any insights into how your child learns best.

Peer Tutoring Research and Background Information

[Classwide Peer Tutoring: Information for Families from Reading Rockets](#)

[The Effectiveness of Peer Tutoring in the Elementary Grades by Carey Olmscheid](#)

[What Are Some Advantages & Disadvantages of Peer Tutoring? by Nadine Smith](#)

[Classwide Peer Tutoring by Charles Greenwood](#)

[Research Spotlight on Peer Tutoring: NEA Reviews of the Research on Best Practices in Education](#)