

Armstrong Middle School – Ms. Lark

Project Executive Summary

We are team Larkstrong and we serve Ms. Lark's 6th grade math class at Armstrong Middle School. Armstrong Middle School is a diverse public school right outside of downtown Starkville. Each of our team members have a designated time to go and tutor the kids during their class time. As a team, our main goal was to help the students better understand math and build their confidence. We wanted to motivate them to learn and improve their skills of working in a group; therefore, we thought they would want to learn if we created a game to help review before tests.

Over the semester, we have visited the school roughly 30 times total. The students have begun to warm up to us and now strive to do better. Noticeable improvements in class have been seen both while we are there helping as well as when we are not. To continue encouraging the kids, we assembled goodie bags for distribution upon finishing the game during class, and Ms. Lark has given us a list of students deserving of cowbells as a reward. These have an impact on the day-to-day activities in-class and will continue to benefit Ms. Lark's learning environment. By helping in Ms. Lark's classes, we have put confidence in the kids and hopefully have been able to teach them to help their fellow classmates.

We have been able to serve Ms. Lark for at least 75 hours; each trip is about 6 miles roundtrip, and we have helped about 145 of Ms. Lark's students. We have been extremely lucky to be able to have an impact on these sixth graders' lives by teaching them the value of an education and that learning can be fun. Some of the greatest challenges our group faced involve remembering old math skills in order to teach the students thoroughly. When we could not remember how to teach the correct way to solve the problems, Ms. Lark would show us to be

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sure we did not confuse them. Also, time management was a huge aspect in the challenges of the group. Being able to balance school, jobs, and tutoring was challenging. Finally, patience with the students was very difficult when trying to teach a new objective to the student. In order to compensate for those challenges, we realized that communication was the key to every issue. Being able to communicate within the group and with our community partner solved many issues.

The most important thing we were eager to see was the students' participation. However, getting their attention was a little challenging when trying to teaching a difficult lesson. Despite the challenges, we learned a life lesson of patience and stability. Those aspects can help us face more challenges as we progress throughout our college experience.