



Math*STARS News

Letter from the Director — Erin Doherty

Dear Math*STARS Parents and Friends,

Welcome to our first Math*STARS Newsletter. Our newsletter will be published at the end of every session and sent out to you, a Math*STARS Supporter. We want to keep you informed about what is going on at the afterschool program, and any events coming up for you to mark on your calendar.

Math*STARS opened its doors on September 8 to students coming from MathPOWER's Algebra Plus Summer Camp and from Sportsmen's Tennis Club (STC) tennis classes. Students immediately made themselves at home in our classrooms at STC. MathPOWER furnished 2 large rooms with rugs, study tables, bean bag chairs, computers, and a cabinet full of paper, pencils, calculators, and other tools necessary for academic work. As the Session continued, we added a hot/cold water cooler and snacks to keep the students focused on their schoolwork and not their appetites!

Our first Session at Sportsmen's has been a great success! The partnership between MathPOWER and STC is giving Math*STARS students a fantastic opportunity to excel by providing homework help and tennis lessons from dedicated volunteers and employees. Math*STARS students are working hard and challenging themselves in the classroom and on the court. We couldn't be happier!

I would like to thank you for your participation in and support for Math*STARS. The program begins Session 2 on Monday, November 3. We hope that you will register your son or daughter for another Session at Math*STARS, and will continue this journey with MathPOWER and Sportmen's Tennis Club!

Best,
Erin Doherty
Director of Afterschool, MA Promise Fellow



Jackie Wiley, grade 9,
studies.



A Day at Math*STARS — Kalani Butler, Grade 7



Kalani Butler

Hello my name is Kalani Butler and I am associated with MathPOWER Math*STARS. Our usual day here starts with entering the classroom, which shouldn't be called a classroom since it looks nothing like it, it's more like a hangout. But anyway, when we get in you can hang out until 3:00 when you have to get a learning journal. Once

you have completed your learning journal and grabbed a snack, you are to start your homework. Since there are so many lovely tutors most of the students have help with their homework when they need it. On Mondays and Wednesdays we have tennis with Coach Courtney and Coach Julio (Pablo). That starts at 5:00 to 6:00. On Friday

we have a choice to come. MathSTARS is a very convenient after school program for kids who have nowhere to go after school.

MathPOWER

Phone: (617) 373-5934

Fax: (617) 373-7575

MATH*STARS

*Be Fit, Be Smart,
Be Ready for College!*

Sportsmen's Tennis Club

Phone: (617) 288-9092

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

MathPOWER at Northeastern University (NEU) is a non-profit organization that prepares students to achieve competency in advanced mathematics. *Sportsmen's Tennis Club* has added MathPower to our after-school program, *Serve & Return*, which offers a combination of math and literacy courses, homework assistance and tennis instruction. More than a drop-in center, the program develops students' math, reading, and writing skills in addition to assuring homework completion. Students can come to the Club immediately after school, and will have a combination of academic instruction and tennis lessons between 3 and 6 PM Monday through Thursday, with tennis matches and other activities on Fridays. This effort is also supported by the Center for STEM Education at NEU.

COSTS:

MathPOWER has received a grant that will help underwrite the costs of the Program for the first two years. Parents will be asked to contribute \$50 plus the cost of tennis lessons for each eight week session. Children will receive 72 hours of academic instruction, 24 hours of tennis instruction, and 8 fun Friday evening programs per session. Students should plan to attend all five sessions throughout the school year for maximum gain. Financial assistance is available from Sportsmen's Tennis Club for qualified students.

SESSIONS:

Session I Sept 8th - Nov. 1st

Session II Nov. 3rd - Dec. 23rd

Session III Jan. 5th - Mar. 7th

Session IV Mar. 9th - May 9th

Extension May 11th - June 19th



A Tutor's Perspective

Erin Linebarger

I enjoy the time I spend with the students at Math*STARS. I can remember a few specific people who helped me out quite a bit during my time in school, and I know how much it meant to me. I like that I'm able to be in a position to possibly do that for someone else. I remember most distinctly about those people that while they would help me academically, I also always knew they were there for me to talk to about anything, if I needed to. And that's how I feel it is with us at Math*STARS. I go there and help students with their homework, and we chat in between homework assignments. And if any of the students ever was having a hard time with something, school or otherwise, I'd love to sit and chat and help them out if I could.

Student Bio — Aaron Wilson, Grade 7

My name is Aaron Wilson. I'm currently in the 7th grade; I also go to the Wilson Middle School in Natick. My hobbies are: Music, Reading, Travelling, and studying the Second World War (WWII). My favorite subject is Science, because it's fun to get your hands dirty and

do cool experiments. My school subjects include: Language & Literacy (L+L, Lang & Lit), Science, Math, and Geography (Social Studies). My specialty classes include: Art, Band, Tech Ed. (Technology Education), French, Tech Lit (Technology Literacy) ... My School is okay,

teachers are good, and overall the school is okay. When I grow up, I want to be a Surgeon, one who helps people live better a better life. I might want to go to school at Northeastern University or another University one day.

I think that sometimes other people can be mirrors in which we can see ourselves. At least, I find that to be true. I've learned a good deal about myself just in the weeks I've been coming to Math*STARS. I also know that I can learn something from everyone, if I just look for the lesson. I'm glad I have the opportunity to come out to the afterschool program two afternoons a week, to be able to help when I can, and to listen and learn when I can. And the hot chocolate there isn't bad either.