

Strategic Partnership Building and Engagement Processes in Asheville

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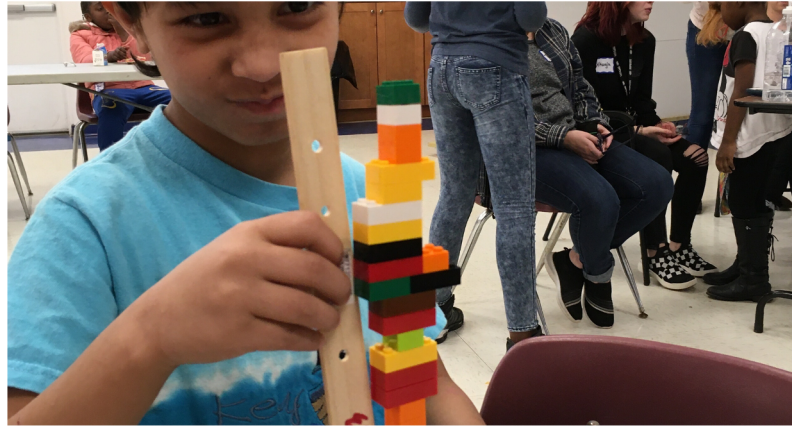
Marvelous Math Club

is a unique collaboration between UNC Asheville, Asheville Housing Authority, and Asheville City Schools that **focuses on elementary students** who live in Pisgah View Apartments (one of the lowest-income properties in the Housing Authority).



and **Marvelous Math Club**

supports students on leadership and confidence in math.



The focus of **Marvelous Math Club** is creating a safe and brave space that

- promotes social-emotional growth,
- develops community,
- fosters leadership, and
- celebrates math.



Marvelous Math Club Vocabulary

Math Leaders are elementary school students who participate in the Club.



Marvelous Math Club Vocabulary

Math Champions are the volunteers and staff who model leadership play with math and provide homework support. Math Champions range from middle school students to professionals and retirees. Some of our Math Champions are also residents of Pisgah View community.



Some Math Leaders and Math Champions during Sharing Circle.



The Asheville Housing Authority partnership offers Marvelous Math Club a space **on site** at Pisgah View Community Center.

Choosing to host the Club in Pisgah View Apartments is the true way to make the Club accessible to the Math Leaders of Marvelous Math Club.

Math Champions come to the community where the Leaders reside.

Most of the Math Champions are **guests** of the community.



Social-Emotional Growth

The language and activities of Marvelous Math Club reflect a focus on Social-Emotional Growth.

- Asset + Justice-based language and practice
- Self care
- Leadership circle



Asset-Based Language and Practice

Asset-based language and practice seeks to open a door to personal growth by framing people, oneself, and situations around what is present and possible rather than barriers and what is missing.



Deficit based	Asset based
Help/ Helpful	Support, Encourage, Beneficial
Need(s)	Priorities, Interests
Fix	Validate
Minority/ Diverse Students	People/Person of Color, Multicultural
Tutor	Homework Support, Champion, Guide, Assist
Being Good	Demonstrating Leadership
Improve	Grow, Enhance
Structure	Flow
Program	Club, Initiative

Justice-Based Practice

is being intentional with our thinking and speaking. This requires being present to each of the Math Leaders.



Self-care

Any activity where we practice care for our mental, physical or emotional health.

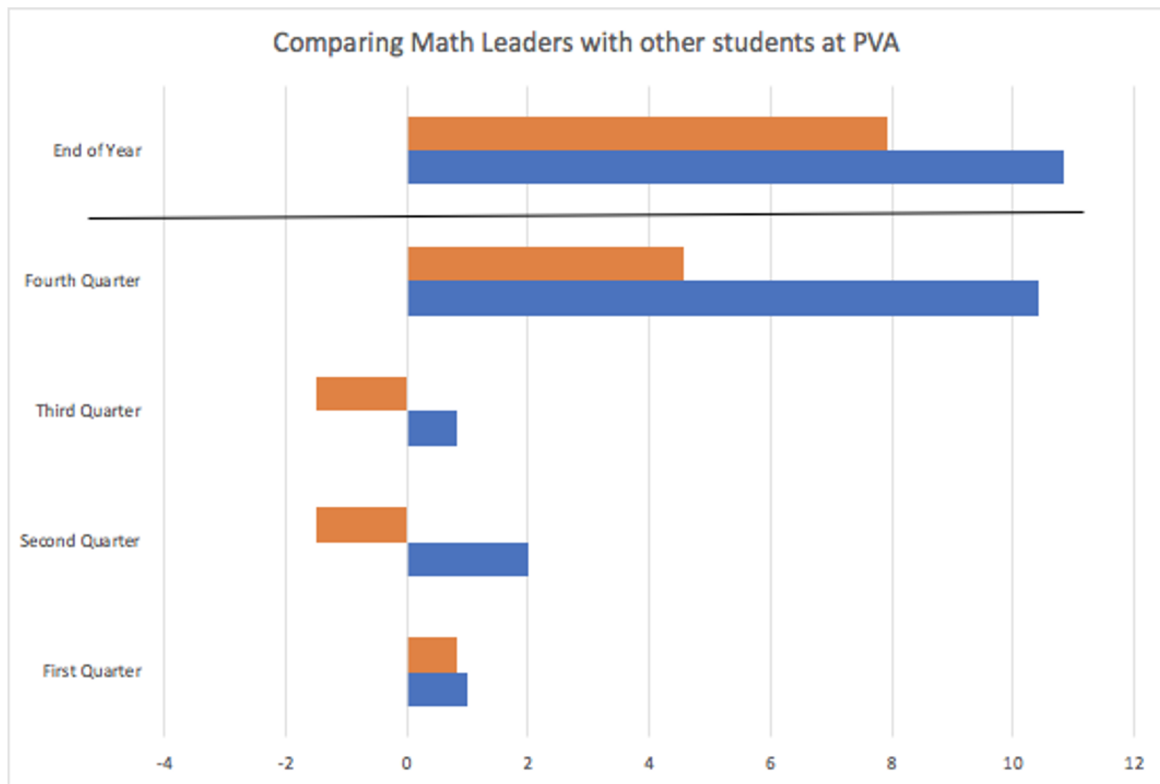


Leadership Circle

Every Marvelous Math Club session ends with Math Leaders, one at a time, sharing how each demonstrated leadership that day. Then all the Math Leaders and Math Champions are invited to share additional demonstrations of that member's leadership.



Assessment: Math Leaders



Math Leaders who attended at least half the time all year are blue.

Math Leaders who attended at least half the time starting January are in orange.

Assessment: Math Leaders

Aside from grades, impacts of Marvelous Math Club on Math Leaders...in the classroom include social-emotional growth.

To teacher: “Am I dressed like a leader? I’m a leader at Marvelous Math Club and I want to be a leader at school, too.” (He was later given a leadership award by his peers.)

From a teacher: She no longer hides under her desk when it’s time to do math.



Assessment: College student Math Champions

Why should UNC Asheville be involved?

“Higher education is often separated from and excludes families with less access and often lack representation in college classes and curriculums. By being able to go into the communities and interact with the people we as students are able to learn things that are not easily taught in lecture halls.”



Assessment: College student Math Champions

Favorite moments:

“Seeing two kids who had a TON of conflict, apologize to one another and even compliment each other in the sharing circle. “

“Seeing shy girls straighten up their back, flip their hair, and put on the biggest smile as people from every side of the room tell them how amazing they are!”



Framework

Our focus on creating a space where the Math Leaders feel safe physically and emotionally and using a strategy of asset-based language and justice-based practice is supported by sociological ideas of “labelling theory” and the long-term impact of building self-integrity.



Closing remarks

marvelous
math club
is the best
and I love
it because



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