

Tips for teaching and tutoring:

- Be really encouraging and complimentary. Even if you can't tell, most kids are embarrassed by what they don't know. It helps to make them feel like you don't care that they might not know something, you are there to mitigate this discomfort for them. Kids also respond well to compliments, and it's amazing to see how much academically stronger they get when they feel more confident!
- Try to keep your time with students as interesting as possible. Use examples from your experience in school and at the University to keep things interesting.
- Focus on concepts more than vocabulary (in math). Break down the different processes (multiplication, division, adding and multiplying fractions), but also use real-world examples (pieces of a pie) so that it becomes less something they have to memorize, and more of something that they know because it makes sense when given context.
- Keep in mind that "many students never gain an overview understanding of the whole game of math. They learn math as a collection of unrelated elements. This is a major weakness in our math education system."
- Don't forget to use the question as a tool. 1) It is a great way to see what they know or how well they understand something, and 2) it'll save you if you aren't sure of something!
- Feel free to offer help connecting teachers with the resources of the West Tennessee STEM Hub. The online curriculum, lending library kits, and STEM spotlights could be a very valuable tool for some of your teachers.
- No matter how you're spending your time as STEM Ambassador, be sure to exude professionalism. Arrive on time and focus on spending your time as in the classroom as constructively as possible. And remember, you are setting an example for the students at all times, so,

***** Do not open, touch, or look at your cell phone! *****