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## AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING FOR NINTH-GRADE STUDENTS

**James Ford Rhodes High School**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

James Ford Rhodes High School wanted to increase the number of ninth-grade students passing the Ohio proficiency test. The school recruited community and teacher volunteers to tutor students after school to assist in improving students' math skills.

The school sent flyers to education departments of local colleges inviting students to an open house in October. There, college students learned about the tutoring program and agreed to tutor students as part of their community service. Retired educators, grandparents, and parent alumni also offered their tutoring services.

The tutoring sessions ran three times per week from 2:30-4:30 pm, September until May. Each participating ninth grader had his/her own tutor. The tutors used proficiency materials and workbooks focused on fractions, division, and word problems.

Attendance varied, particularly dropping off after spring break. The program communicated to parents to encourage their children to attend the tutoring. Students also had a difficult time remaining focused on the importance of the tutoring helping them pass all areas of the ninth-grade proficiency test. Committed guidance counselors, teachers, college students, and interested parents took struggling students under their wings.

One hundred out of 500 ninth graders received tutoring. Student test scores on the proficiency test did increase from October to March. In particular, reading scores increased 7%, writing scores increased from 72% to 90%, and math scores rose 18%.

Increasing test scores on the ninth grade proficiency test will continue to be a goal. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of college students, retired teachers, grandparents, and parent alumni, Rhodes High School is on the road to success.

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