



Ravenswood Classroom Partners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALL STUDENTS MATTER ANNOUNCES NEW NAME AND NEW PROGRAMS FOR HIGH-DOSAGE LITERACY TUTORING AND SCIENCE SUPPORT

MENLO PARK, CA (November 15, 2021) All Students Matter announced that the organization has changed its name to Ravenswood Classroom Partners. The new name was chosen to better reflect what the organization has done since 2008: partnering with Ravenswood teachers in the classroom to support student success in eastern Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

“While the name has changed, our mission remains the same,” says Executive Director Angie Holman. “Our mission, inspired by the belief that every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn, is to provide volunteer tutoring and mentoring to Ravenswood students.” She added, “Our new name also embodies our commitment to the Ravenswood community, as we exclusively support students in the Ravenswood City School District.”

Ravenswood Classroom Partners (RCP) is further announcing refinements to its tutoring programs in support of the school district’s priorities. RCP is implementing a high-dosage literacy tutoring model in a new, structured program and is adding support for the district’s new hands-on science lessons.

“This year, we are engaging students in person with high-dosage tutoring support in literacy. This means the children with the greatest academic needs will receive one-on-one tutoring multiple times each week,” explained Angie Holman. “Building literacy and comprehension skills help students succeed academically in reading, writing, and math.”

“We are also thrilled to be partnering with district teachers in supporting hands-on science labs each week. The district is implementing a new science curriculum and our volunteers will support elementary school classroom teachers to engage students in weekly hand-on science projects,” Holman continued.

High-Dosage Literacy Tutoring

High-dosage literacy tutoring has been in the news recently as a proven, highly effective method of working with students, particularly those who have lost instructional time from a year of distance learning in schools. Reports from [McKinsey](#) and [EdResearch](#) discuss how one-on-one tutoring each day optimizes students’ learning. RCP’s TK-5th grade tutoring will be conducted during school hours and content will be personalized to meet each student’s unique needs. The program will include assessments of student progress to ensure meaningful improvements in academic outcomes.

Program Director Keri Tully describes the approach: “Our trained volunteers support students in literacy through a technique called Guided Reading, where they coach students and focus on supporting their reading strategies, reading comprehension, and word study. The programs are closely aligned with the classroom curriculum and embedded in the school day to accelerate learning.”

Hands-on Science Support

Volunteer tutors will partner with an assigned K-5th grade teacher to support hands-on science in the classroom each week. The district has adopted the FOSS Next Generation Science program, which emphasizes firsthand exploration to engage students in experiences that lead to a deeper understanding of the world around them. RCP volunteers will prep materials for labs, including needed set up and clean up. Once labs are in process, RCP volunteers will support students directly as they engage in the hands-on science lessons.

“Students will explore and apply concepts in science in a way that is much more interactive than before. The program uses an inquiry approach to teaching and learning which allows for active student investigation.” says Tully.

Executive Director Angie Holman adds, “As with all our programs throughout the years, our volunteer tutors do more than work with students with their academics. They are a consistent, caring presence in the lives of these children and use their RCP social-emotional skills training to mentor students and help boost self-confidence and a love of learning.”

Ravenswood Classroom Partners volunteers tutor over 450 students each week during the school year. Last year, the volunteers donated over 10,000 hours of literacy, writing, and social-emotional support, all at no charge to the district or families.

Superintendent Gina Sudaria has incorporated the work of Ravenswood Classroom Partners into the district's multi-tiered system for reading intervention support. RCP is a key partner in learning acceleration plans and will be using assessments to measure student progress. "The individual tutoring Ravenswood Classroom Partners provides to students makes a tremendous difference and will be instrumental to ensure the future success of every student," says Sudaria.

About Ravenswood Classroom Partners: Inspired by the belief that every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn, Ravenswood Classroom Partners (RCP) has been sending trained volunteers to classrooms in the Ravenswood school district since 2008, helping improve students' academic performance and self-confidence. RCP is unique because volunteers work with the same teacher and students each week throughout the school year at no cost to the school district. RCP's dedicated, trained volunteers are a consistent, caring presence in the lives of the children they support. In Ravenswood City School District, about 60% of the students are English learners, about 89% are low income, and over 44% are in unstable housing or considered homeless. RCP supports students facing these challenges.

www.ravenswoodclassroompartners.org

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