## CONTACT:

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## **Heart Math Tutoring Adds Pinewood Elementary as New School Partner**



**CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Oct. 5, 2015** – <u>Heart Math Tutoring</u> (Heart) – a nonprofit group dedicated to helping students in high-poverty concentration schools develop math skills and academic confidence – has added Pinewood Elementary School as a new school partner. Located at 805 Seneca Place in Charlotte (28210), Pinewood Elementary is now one of <u>eight Heart school sites</u> in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) in 2015/16.

"We are thrilled and grateful that interest from community volunteers and support from donors allowed us to offer the program to Pinewood Elementary, where students in grades 2, 3, and 4 will receive tutoring twice per week starting in mid-October," said Emily Elliott, executive director of Heart Math Tutoring. "We also appreciate our existing school partner, Montclaire Elementary, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Community Partnerships Team for being instrumental in introducing Heart to Pinewood and helping us begin this new partnership."

Heart is a math intervention program that recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to work as tutors in high-poverty elementary schools in <a href="Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools">Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools</a>. Hundreds of community members spend one hour each week delivering Heart's research-based, structured curriculum. About 60 percent of economically disadvantaged children in <a href="Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools">Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools</a> perform below grade level in math, based on 2014-15 North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests.

Heart uses research-based assessments and provides volunteer-friendly lesson plans that target the gaps of each individual student. To date, 97% of students tutored by Heart have met program growth goals set in partnership with CMS. The tutor-student relationships also boost the students' academic confidence and improve the flow of social capital among races and socio-economic groups in Charlotte. In addition, 100 percent of surveyed Heart volunteers rated their experience as positive in 2014/15, and 97 percent would recommend Heart to friends and colleagues.

To date for the 2015/16 school year, 440 volunteers are signed up as weekly tutors to serve almost 370 students. Additional volunteers are always needed to help additional students, and interested individuals can sign up at <a href="http://hearttutoring.org/become-a-volunteer/">http://hearttutoring.org/become-a-volunteer/</a>.

Through its partnership with each school, Heart has an on-site program coordinator and is currently looking to fill that position at Pinewood Elementary. The program coordinator will oversee 30-40

students' growth in math skills; manage volunteer tutors; and serve as a liaison with teachers and school staff at Pinewood Elementary

For more information about Heart, the program coordinator position, or to become a community or financial partner, call 704-931-3209 or email Emily Elliott at eelliott@hearttutoring.org.

## **Heart Math Tutoring**

Heart Math Tutoring is a Charlotte-based nonprofit with a mission to ensure that all elementary students develop the strong foundation in math and enthusiasm for academics needed for long-term success, by helping schools use volunteers as tutors. Community members commit one hour per week to deliver an effective, hands-on curriculum through one-on-one tutoring sessions during the school day in Title I elementary schools. For more information, visit <a href="http://hearttutoring.org">http://hearttutoring.org</a>.

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