

Northeastern's Virtual Tutor Keeps Students Moving in the Right Direction



“It’s people, not programs” has been an understatement for the 2020-2021 school year at Northeastern Randolph Middle School. Virtual tutor Ann Brady has been one of many examples of people keeping the school and our community on the road to success. Through special “instructional recovery” funding, Brady works with Northeastern students and even their parents, grandparents, and older siblings as a virtual tutor on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Brady retired from the Randolph County School System, but in a time when both students and teachers needed additional support, she returned to the workforce to help twice per week with virtual tutoring for middle school students. She is licensed in multiple content areas and is available to help students with all courses. Appointments are sometimes made by phone, but more often students have used technology tools to connect with the tutoring service.

The area that Brady has been called on to help with most often is math, and thus she has spent some time teaching students about topics such as percentage/proportions, linear equations, y-intercept, and graphing. Referrals arrive to Brady from teachers, administrators, and other staff. Students and families may also self-refer. Students engage with Brady when they are learning remotely either because they are full-time remote learners or because they are physically on campus two days a week and need some support while learning in the home setting.

Frequently, tutor Brady has found that as a beginning step students often need help with navigating the district’s learning management system, Canvas, or submitting assignments. Ms. Brady has reminded students and their parents about the importance of attending Google Meet sessions and using time effectively. Her patient resolve has helped students and families work through social emotional needs as well. She has provided words of encouragement for students who have fallen behind and helped connect families with available resources. To help teachers understand students’ challenges as well as progress, Brady reports back to teachers and administrators about her work with students so that everyone remains focused on individual student success.