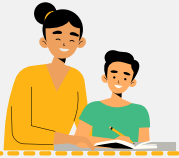


WHY WITS MATTERS



WITS IS A LITERACY ORGANIZATION THAT FACILITATES STUDENT AND TEACHER PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



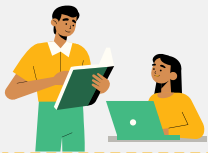
THE NEED

- The pandemic worsened existing gaps in learning and achievement, particularly for communities already facing racial and economic inequities.
- New research emphasizes the need for resources and programs that support students' emotional well-being, which plays a critical role in their academic success.
- Our partner educators believe that consistent one-on-one support will not only help students academically, but will also fulfill a need for social interaction.



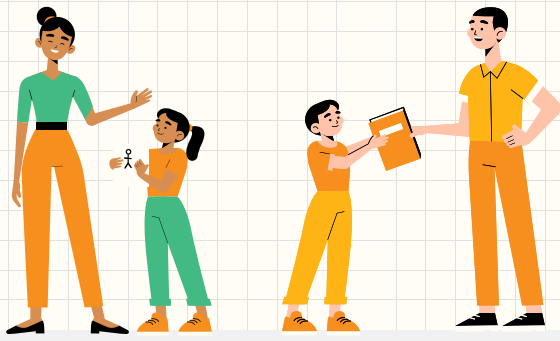
OUR OUTCOMES

- **82% of students were more open to reading new types of books after participating in WITS.**
- **84% of students agreed that participating in WITS made them want to read for fun more often.**
- **91% of students looked forward to WITS Program every week.**
- **100% of our partner teachers were satisfied with student participation in WITS.**



OUR COMMUNITY

- Schools are recovering from disruption and loss. Administrators are eager to welcome WITS programs back into their schools to encourage positivity and growth.
- What partner teachers value most about WITS is how our programs promote a love of reading and support social-emotional development in students.
- Corporate partners see WITS' mentorship opportunities as an incentive for employees to return to the office. WITS is determined to re-engage volunteers to support as many students as possible.



WHAT OUR TEACHERS & STUDENTS SAY

ROCHELLE LEE TEACHER AWARDEES

"The RLTA program has encouraged me to continue my learning and [develop] my love of learning inside and outside of the classroom. I love the skills and strategies that I have learned while being involved in the RLTA program. I use things I have learned on a daily basis in my classroom and that is why the RLTA program is so beneficial. I actually use the things I have learned!"

Carrie – Edison Park Elementary School



"Each year of receiving this award, I have attended the Summer Institute to learn new strategies to engage my students in learning. I have implemented reading strategies that have helped to increase and enhance student comprehension in reading. I am able to share the ideas from the Summer Institute with my colleagues to increase knowledge of strategies beyond my classroom."

"Participating in this study group allowed for me to have regular access to colleagues for help and different perspectives. It allowed me time to bounce my ideas off colleagues when I was very isolated. I literally revamped the way I taught with the help of the study group."

Crystal – Charles H. Wacker Elementary School



OUR STUDENTS

"One of my favorite parts about WITS is reading books. You get to choose which books you read and they are really fun and interesting. You also get to make new friends and see new people."

WITS 3rd Grader

"We learn a lot about each other at WITS. Personalities and favorite book types. We can be open and comfortable with being ourselves also."

WITS 5th Grader

"If you're stuck on a word or question, [mentors] are understanding and will help you. They listen to your thoughts and opinions."

WITS 5th Grader