



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rhonda Massie
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BPL Provides Free Tutoring Just In Time for the New School Year

BLOOMINGTON – The Bloomington Public Library has contracted with Tutor.com to provide free, one-on-one tutoring with certified, professional tutors. This tutoring service is being offered via an instant messaging format for those who possess a Bloomington Public Library card.

Those interested in using the tutoring service can do so daily from 3 to 11 p.m. from either a home computer or one of the library's public access computers. Using the service from a home computer will require input of your Bloomington Public Library card number and will likely require the user to install the plug-in Silverlight onto their computer. In addition, Tutor.com sessions end after 60 minutes. However, this does not prevent people from immediately logging in again with another tutor.

Tutors and students work in a secure, anonymous and interactive online classroom with access to white boards, drawing tools, instant messaging and file sharing. At the conclusion of a session, the student has options to print out all the whiteboards that were used during the session, print out a transcript of the session and/or have the conversation sent to an email account.

An added benefit to the service is that students are more likely to ask an anonymous tutor a question they may be too embarrassed to ask in class.

The service, offered in both English and Spanish, is geared toward all levels of study in three different age groups:

- K-12 Student Center
 - Math
 - Science
 - English
 - Social Studies
 - Review of a document by a tutor
 - Standardized Tests Preparation
- College Center
 - Math
 - Science
 - English
 - Social Studies
 - Resume help
 - GED Prep
 - Review of a document by a tutor
 - Standardized Tests Preparation
 - Standardized Tests Preparation
- Adult Career Center
 - Resume Help
 - GED Prep
 - Citizenship
 - Back to School
 - Review of a document by a tutor

Spanish

Spanish users should be aware that a small number of the services offered in English are not currently offered in Spanish.

Those include:

- Proof of a document by a tutor
- Resume help

SkillsCenter

Tutor.com tutors are available daily from 3 to 11 p.m. However, the site's SkillsCenter is open 24/7 and offers thousands of worksheets, tutorials, study guides, videos and more.

The tutors

Every tutor is screened, certified and background checked, and no personal information is ever shared between the student and the tutor. In addition, tutors only work with one student at a time. No exceptions. A tutor will work step-by-step with a student in order to make sure the material in question is fully understood. And tutors never simply supply the answer to a problem.

Logging in

Tutor.com is only free to those who possess a Bloomington Public Library card. It is a paid service to others. Because of this, those using the library to obtain these services **must** log on via the library's website – www.BloomingtonLibrary.org. From the library's homepage, look for "Online Resources" in the "Find" section. After clicking, look to the right and click on "Online Resources in Alphabetical Order;" then scroll to find Tutor.com.

Though it is common knowledge that a Bloomington Public Library card can be used at Normal Public Library, and vice versa, the same is not true of this online service. Only Bloomington residents (those with a card issued at Bloomington Public Library) will be able to log on to Tutor.com.

Tutorials

The library will provide 30-minute introductory tutorials about this service to those who would like to see firsthand how it works. Those sessions will be held at the following dates and times.

- Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, November 5, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m.