

Volunteer: it makes a difference in everyone's future

Have you ever sat in a classroom, and saw the teacher's lips moving, but really didn't understand what they were saying? Plenty of us have had that experience. Too bad we didn't have a volunteer like **Kyle Fournier** there to help us.

Kyle is an **Ottawa Network For Education (ONFE)** volunteer. For more than a year he has been making a weekly difference in the lives of students at a local high school by helping them to better understand the intricacies of math.



Kyle has always had an interest in teaching, from a young age he would test himself by listening to his teachers and then explaining the problems in a different way for his schoolmates, to help them understand, to help them ignite their ideas.

Did you know that 70% of new jobs **will require Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)** skills, yet less than 50% of students in Ontario graduate with these skills?

Kyle's helping to change these numbers by **donating** his **STEM** skills to where they are needed the most, in high school classrooms to youth who can benefit from his knowledge.

Kyle tutored all through high school. Now graduated and attending university, he continues to **give back to his community** by supporting students to help them to get better grades. Kyle helps to generate **curiosity** about math, and to share his interest in teaching.

"ONFE is a great way for me to apply what I know, to share my experience with kids who need help," says Kyle. "It's also a win/win for me, I've been able to expand my math and teaching skills with what I have learned through tutoring and I apply this to my own studies."

"It inspires me when I see a light go on," says Kyle. "When a student finds an answer and gets excited about how to solve a problem it is one of the most rewarding moments."

Kyle plans to volunteer for many years to come, it enriches his life as much as the kids he works with. Not sure where he'll be after graduating from University, one thing **he is sure of** is that helping his community has **made a difference in his life**, and the **lives of people he helps**.

Considering volunteering, but don't know what you've got to give? Think about what you are passionate about, and see where you can make a difference with this experience and knowledge.

To find out more about what you can do in our community visit the Ottawa Network For Education <http://www.onfe-rope.ca>.