

# WILL GLAUBERMAN IS MAKING MATH FUN

BY REBECCA OSBERG

**W**ill Glauberman, a junior at New Trier High School, has always loved math. After he participated in several math circles, he realized that what was missing from his hometown was its own Glencoe math circle. Wanting to give back to the community, Will decided to take the simple step of finding out if anyone was interested.

“In spring 2022, I started with an ask — “who is interested in a Glencoe math circle?” I was shocked that over 80 Glencoe families signed up for information!” says Will. “And that’s how Glencoe Math Circle was born.”

Glencoe Math Circle is an out-of-school experience that provides free, unique math enrichment for first-sixth grade Glencoe students. Older students work with younger students to help them learn math in a fun, collaborative and engaging way.



“Once I knew there was the demand, I worked over the summer to develop curriculum, arrange logistics, and build a website with the help of a local Glencoe family,” explains Will. “This fall, I officially launched the Glencoe Math Circle with two first/second-grade sections and one fifth/sixth-grade section hosted and supported by District 35. So far, we’ve had over 25 students participate in the fall, and we are on track for another 30 students this winter with full waitlists!”

Will has always loved math and hopes to study applied math in college, eventually working for the Department of Education and becoming a “Math Czar” to transform math education in the United States to be more equitable and achieve better outcomes. His love for math inspired him to show other students that they could love numbers, also.

“Math has always been fun for me, and it is way more fun to explore math with others rather than on your own — I wanted to give that same experience and perspective to others. There is a lot of focus in math on “competition,” and I want to instead show people that math can be collaborative,” says Will. “This post-pandemic year was an especially good time to start the Glencoe Math Circle. Families were looking for fun, in-person experiences to enrich their children’s academics after remote learning.”

Will paired up with Claire Smylie, another Glencoe resident and sophomore at Woodlands Academy, to be his teaching partner.

“Claire has a love of math like I do, and she has been instrumental in helping get the Glencoe Math Circle started. Claire and I are a good team — we have different personalities and styles, which is great for teaching. Claire is also very reliable, and we always cover for each other,” says Will.

In addition to running Glencoe Math Circle, Will is also a member of the New Trier Math Club and Science Olympiad teams. Additionally, he volunteers at the Math Help Center at New Trier and participates with Midwest Math Circle and Stanford Math Circle.

When he needs a break from math, he plays tennis.

“This year has been challenging to keep a balance between school and my other activities, but it is also exciting because my classes are very interesting, and I feel like I’m really starting to accomplish my goals. I try to keep my time



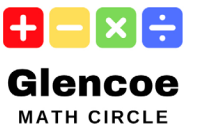
Will with Lauren Shapiro, second grade and Nico Thompson, first grade.



Will with Lauren Shapiro, second grade and Sawyer Herz, first grade.

well-managed by planning my assignments and calendar of activities at least a week in advance, and I am sure to budget in time with my friends and family on the weekends,” says Will. “I have a lot of support from my parents and my teachers, and they really keep me going on those days when I feel overwhelmed. But because I am doing things that I love, I feel like my life is pretty balanced, even if I’m really busy.”

To learn more about Glencoe Math Circle, visit [www.glencoeathcircle.com](http://www.glencoeathcircle.com).



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