Saturday PACT is a tutorial assistance program that seeks to enhance the academic achievement of elementary, middle, and high school students in the Pittsburgh area. Students are tutored in reading, math, science, computers, and the languages. They also receive help with researching and writing papers via the computer. Tutees are recommended by school principals or school counselors and are selected based on their willingness to participate. Saturday PACT takes place on Duquesne University’s campus, and is staffed by Duquesne University students as tutors and aided by Duquesne University staff.

Who do I contact for more information?
Vicki R. Bush, M.S.Ed.
412-396-6037
bush@duq.edu

The Saturday PACT Program and Credits

What is PACT?

Project for Academic Coaching Through Tutoring (PACT) began in 1990 as a community outreach and service learning project of Duquesne University’s Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center. Organized to provide after-school and Saturday morning tutoring for children residing in the Hill District community, the project was expanded in 1997 when an infusion of federal funds allowed the inclusion of in-school and after-school tutoring throughout Pittsburgh and surrounding communities.

Duquesne students serve as PACT tutors and are noted for their commitment to helping the children who have come to them for learning support. They serve for course credit, as volunteers and as college work-study recipients.

Who do I contact for more information?
Vicki R. Bush, M.S.Ed.
412-396-6037
bush@duq.edu

The PACT Newsletter

Fall 2008 PACT Tutors
(From Left to Right)
(Bottom Row) Kyle Gryta, Megan Miske, Katie Adamus, Alexandra Zacaroli
(Middle Row) Molly Maiolo, Alexandra Peck, Samantha Slifer, Emily Smith
(Top Row) Matthew Crumrine, Kellie Campbell, John Bojarski, Greg Nydes, Caitlyn Shroyer
(Not Pictured) Ryan Battles, Caleila Burrell, Julie Carnahan, Joseph Cole-OLeary, Brieana Duckett-Graves, Mykol Gardiner, Claire Kessler, Koshie Lampay, Cortez Newsome

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.”
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Fall 2008
My name is Kyle Gryta and as a senior here at Duquesne, I truly believe that tutoring has been one of the most rewarding work-related experiences of my college career. I am originally from the small town of Edinboro, PA, and I can say for sure that such an opportunity-tutoring inner-city kids-is not as readily available where I am from. What I love most about tutoring is how I can feel the last four years of my education playing a part in the tutor/tutee interaction. I major in psychology and minor in Italian, and though it may sound cliché, I feel as though my studies of personality and language have made a huge contribution in my approach to teaching adolescents. Though I have not been a tutor for very long, I have already had many memorable experiences. My most remarkable experience has been what I've learned about my tutee's personality. Dorian is a very shy kid and sometimes it seems like he's not listening to you. I also noticed that sometimes, when pressed, he was slow to coming to an answer right away. He seemed very reserved towards me and would typically hesitate before answering my questions. But after considering how he may be afraid and timid, rather than slow and inattentive, I realized that Dorian might require a different method of teaching in order to effectively learn. Instead of doing most of the talking, I posed more open ended questions to Dorian and frequently asked if he would like to read and contribute. Dorian responded very well, and as I predicted, he's an extremely bright kid. This experience taught me a valuable lesson when interacting with adolescents. They each have a unique perspective and given their general inexperience with the world, they may easily feel overwhelmed in the moment. This wonderful opportunity I had to teach a very shy, yet very bright kid is typical of the tutoring position. So far, my job has been great and I really don't have any complaints. I also respect and truly like my bosses. I believe they run the program well and provide an invaluable service to the community.

As a senior here at Duquesne, I truly believe that tutoring has been one of the most rewarding work-related experiences of my college career.
-Kyle Gryta

My name is Alexandra Peck and I am from Beaver Falls, PA. I am a pre-law major and a freshman at Duquesne. I tutor two days a week, and began tutoring a few months ago. I enjoy taking part in an organization that reaches out to the community, specifically when dealing with children. I tutor two students, Jason and Sydney. Getting to know each of them has been so much fun. I hope that I have been able to influence them positively, not only with their school work, but also as a mentor and a friend. I thought that Saturday morning tutoring sessions would be rather boring, but I soon realized the rewards that come from getting to know the students vastly outweigh the selfish desire for an extra hour, or so, of sleep. I loved getting to know, not only Jason and Sydney, but also a lot of the other students who take part in the PACT tutoring program. I have made some very valuable friendships with the other tutors. I love the fact that the Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center is the University's main tutoring facility. I know a lot more about the opportunities I have as a Duquesne student through the Learning Skills Center and the PACT program. Also, I love being surrounded by the faculty, staff, and students who deal with the PACT program. Everyone is so much fun to be around. I love being able to learn about and take part in so many different people's lives.

My favorite part of tutoring is getting my work done and learning new things.
-Chanice Curges

Chanice Curges is nine years old, and has been coming to the PACT tutoring program for four years. Chanice lives in Chartiers in the West End and her PACT tutor is Caleila Burrell. Chanice’s favorite part of coming to the PACT tutoring program is being able to get all of her work done and learning new things. Chanice’s favorite part of tutoring has taught her a lot about math. Particularly, “how to use number lines and how to leave numbers behind.” Caleila has also helped Chanice learn “how to better study and practice for math.”

My favorite part of tutoring is getting my work done and learning new things.
-Chanice Curges