Get to Know Us!

Common Denominator
Rising to the Equation
Our founders, four University of Pennsylvania graduates, held the strong belief that math is cumulative and that once middle school students fall behind, they require personalized instruction that neither schools nor families living in fragile communities have resources to provide.

Common Denominator, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002 stands mission-driven to bridging the math literacy divide for New York City middle schoolers by providing individualized 1:1 math tutoring and mentorship to in-need middle school students.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, C/D seamlessly pivoted from a brick-and-mortar program to a virtual online learning platform that continued to provide students with the stability to learn, play, express their feelings and thrive.

Our vision is to become the premier organization addressing math literacy in New York City.
"We were surprised by the jump in our child's grade level. She showed an increased level of enthusiasm and confidence. Thank you, C/D, we are eternally grateful for the support, encouragement, and patience of the whole team."
— C/D Parent

"I am so excited to come back to the program again. I really missed learning new techniques from my tutor. C/D is awesome!"
— C/D Student

“C/D is more than just tutoring. It shows students that someone cares about them and is committed to their success. It makes math fun... I love being a part of C/D and everything it stands for.”
— C/D Tutor
Common Denominator
making the case

Early math skills predict academic success better than early literacy. Children who consistently struggle with math are less likely to receive a high school diploma or attend college. Over 75% of afterschool funding comes from parents, resulting in a 6,000-hour education gap by sixth grade between low-income students and their middle-income peers.

Math proficiency declines rapidly from 3rd to 8th grade
By 8th grade, ~7% of NYC public school students are behind on math

Public schools are not equipped to address this problem
1. Class sizes are too large (27 students)
2. Rigid curriculums
3. Teach to the “middle of class”
4. Teach to standardized testing
5. COVID-19 distance learning

Parents do not have the resources to intervene

Poverty Rates

U.S. Average
NYC Public Schools (2018 - 2019)
C/D

core programming

C/D sessions are designed to help our students improve math skills, build confidence and enjoy doing math through tutoring and mentorship.

Group math-based games to motivate & engage students

1:1 Tutoring & Mentorship – holistic, individualized engagement typically with the same pairing weekly

Robust C/D curriculum - 16 topics ranging from basic arithmetic with positive whole numbers to algebra

Measurements of Success and Assessments to track curriculum progress

“I volunteer because I love seeing the excitement kids have when they learn and understand a concept for the first time. It’s priceless” – C/D Tutor
Our unique curriculum is designed to strengthen each student’s areas of improvement.

Students enjoy participating in our program. Each session begins with a group activity or competitive game, and then focuses on real-world math skills.

Students earn sweat equity and are rewarded for attendance, effort, progress and participation receiving “THINK dollars” that are later redeemed for prizes of their choice.

“This is the ONLY thing that could get my child up early on a Saturday morning!”

- C/D Parent
As we draw near to our 20th year of service, we stand committed to multiplying our impact by:

- Expanding our program to address the needs in the South Bronx & Jamaica Queens locations
- Creating a C/D pilot program in Newark, New Jersey
- Developing advanced curriculum modules; enhancing tutor training and edification
- Improving our data collection, metrics of success, and evaluation methods
- Adding a GEMS: Girls Empowerment through Math Skills Network
Common Denominator  
investing in the common good

Angela Williams  
Executive Director
As the Executive Director, Angela strongly believes that when we invest in young people, they will invest in themselves and in the next generation. Angela holds a M.S. in Education from Lehman College in the Bronx where she was born and raised.

Andrew Goffe  
Co-Chair
Andrew is a stock market investor. He recently retired from his position as CEO and Chief Investment Officer of Overbrook Management, a family office with $1B in assets under management. Andrew received a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

Dorian Swerdlow  
Co-Chair
Dorian is a partner at EY, where he advises clients in acquisitions, divestitures, and operations strategy. Dorian holds an M.S. in management from MIT and a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of California, San Diego.
Our Executive and Associate Board Community

We also attract a dedicated community of tutors that spans industries across New York City.
Contributing to Common Denominator’s Cause is both easy and rewarding.

Below is a sample of how companies can make a difference:

• Financial contributions
• Foundation grant access
• Employee volunteer engagement
• Cause marketing and/or campaigns to drive sales and brand awareness
• Event sponsorships
• School Supplies and technology drives
• Math tutor/mentor recruitment
• Customized community service experience
THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING COMMON DENOMINATOR

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or comments. We would love to discuss specially curated opportunities for your brand.

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