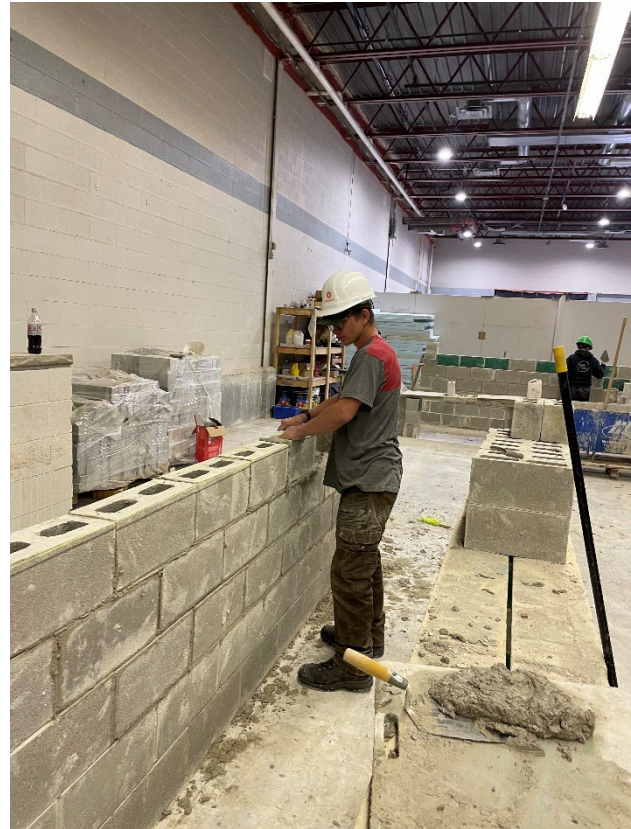


BACU Local 5 using LBS Math Booster as part of Pre-Apprenticeship Program

The [Brick Allied Craft Union, Local 5](#) have again been awarded a Pre-Apprenticeship Program for 2023. This sixteen-week program is designed to teach participants the basic skills and techniques required to gain the knowledge and confidence to be prepared for success on the jobsite. Participants learn how to correctly spread mortar, install block and brick while incorporating the use of reinforcing anchor systems in a variety of projects. The end goal for Local 5 is to have the participants graduate from this program and move into a registered apprenticeship with BACU Local 5 while being employed by one of their Signatory Contractors operating in the London and surrounding areas.



In 2023, the Recruiting Committee selected 14 participants to take part in the program which runs Monday – Friday. 8:30 am – 4:00 PM for 11 weeks. Apprentices who are typically successful in this trade are

- energetic, eager to learn, with an ability to perform physically demanding work as well as pay attention to detail
- able to use construction-related math, to read and transfer measurements in both Imperial and Metric

To support the development of Numeracy Skills this year BACU Local 5 has partnered with [Literacy Link South Central](#) and [Nokee Kwe Literacy Services](#) to delivery a Math Booster Program 3 hours/ week for 14 weeks. Jake Martel, Literacy Coordinator at Nokee Kwe Services, is delivering the instruction on the training site at the West Annex on the Western Fair Grounds in London, Ontario. The idea for the numeracy program came from network meetings held with Literacy Link South Central and the overall concern that many of the apprentices in previous years showed strong competence in

learning technical skills but lacked the mathematical confidence to be a strong level 1 candidate.

Before the Math Booster Program began, the Trade Standards were reviewed and a Math Booster Work Booklet was created to support the program. The Booklet was developed with financial support from Laubach Literacy Ontario and materials borrowed from The Ontario Masonry Training Centre. Finally, the Booklet was edited by Local 5's Training Director, Ian Martin. Brian Pringle, BACU Local 5's Business Director, has been monitoring the progress of his apprentices since they began in late April: *"We are grateful for the LBS support that The Math Booster Program is providing to our apprentices as this has had a very positive effect in learning Math and Numeracy skills. Jake has been patient and engaging with the learners and we have seen the skill level increase."*

Learn more
