

STUDENT SERVICES

Reading Evaluations

The purpose of the evaluation is to determine student's specific reading gaps in foundational skills such as phonics, phonemic awareness, spelling, fluency, comprehension, and/ or processing speed. The evaluation includes a full phonics inventory (auditory & visual), Phonological Awareness Screening Test (PAST), Acadience Reading Assessment, high frequency word test of reading and spelling, and if needed a Rapid Automated Naming (RAN).

Tutoring Services

Once the reading evaluation is complete and the results have been discussed, if it is decided that the student would benefit from tutoring services Ms. Hesser will advise Paul's Mountain that there is a student who would benefit from tutoring. The student will be evaluated every 3-5 sessions to reassess. All decisions are data-driven based on the initial assessment and continued progress monitoring to fully meet the needs of each student. All of these services are paid for by Paul's Mountain Non-Profit Organization.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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307.250.2924

HESSER LITERACY PARTNERS, LLC

Reading Evaluations and Tutoring services are provided by Megan Hesser of Hesser Literacy Partners, LLC. Megan's unexpected journey into literacy and the science of reading came after witnessing the struggles her bright son was facing trying to learn to read. She received a Master's degree in Reading Science from Mount St. Joseph University, Structured Literacy Classroom Teacher certification from the Center for Effective Reading Instruction. Her master's program also included a 40-hour Orton-Gillingham tutoring practicum. She decided to pursue this degree to help her better navigate the world of literacy education as she advocates for children being left behind in the classroom through tutoring and professional development for teachers.

Megan started working with Paul just a few months into his fifth grade year, he was at a first grade reading level and did not know the foundational skills for reading. After twelve Orton-Gillingham tutoring sessions Paul had advanced to the middle of a second grade reading level. He was to start receiving this same instruction at school on January 9, 2023, the first day of his Individualized Education Plan.

Hesser Literacy Partners has limited availability for evaluations and tutoring in the afternoon and evening hours, most availability will be Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.





VISIT OUR WEBSITE

PaulsMountainNonProfit.org

Paul's Mountain was founded in loving memory of Paul Kenneth Pine. Paul struggled with reading, writing, spelling and comprehension, he repeated kindergarten, received interventions at school, was diagnosed and treated for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder ("ADHD") in second grade, was placed on a 504 plan at the end of his fourth grade year and not tested for Individualized Education Plan ("IEP") until his parents requested one after his in-patient stay at a behavior health clinic for suicidal ideations. Paul began having mental health difficulties in second grade, this was during Spring of 2020, he was 9 years old. Paul's parents sought help from their pediatrician who then assessed Paul for ADHD using the Vanderbilt Method and referred Paul to counseling. Paul received one on one counseling, he was evaluated for oppositional defiant disorder, he learned how to manage his executive function. Never during this process was it asked, does this child struggle with reading? If it had been asked, Paul's parents would have responded absolutely. Fast forward three years, Paul has completed and PASSED third grade and fourth grade. However, at the end of his fourth-grade year he was placed on a 504 plan, which was explained as labeling him with a disability in order to provide him with accommodations to help manage his ADHD. It was not until October of Paul's fifth grade year that the Pine family learned he was at a first-grade reading level, this was after the retention of kindergarten, interventions each year. Paul's parents requested he be evaluated for an Individualized Education Plain "IEP". This meeting just happened to be scheduled the day after Paul was discharged from a six-day inpatient behavior health hospitalization for suicidal ideations. This intervention meeting was scheduled for October in September, after Paul had "scored low" on his reading and social/emotional testing. Paul's parents did not realize the dire consequences of failing to teach a child to read, until they were living a parent's worst nightmare. They watched and did everything they could to help Paul's lack of confidence and diminished self-esteem. It is torture for a child who is left behind their peers, classmates, cousin's and younger siblings. After Paul was discharged from inpatient care he was seeing a psychologist at least every other week, counseling every week and Orton Gillingham tutoring.

When Paul started receiving Orton-Gillingham tutoring in fifth grade, he didn't even know all his short vowels, for years any struggle he showed was blamed on his ADHD. Paul had memorized so many words that he looked like an ok reader, however, his spelling and writing were suffering which shouldn't have been the case, Paul was missed in a class of 9. When the school finally evaluated him for the IEP he was in the 3rd percentile in reading for his age, only 2% of 11 year old's did worse. However, Paul was not a minority who struggles with reading, in fact a majority of Wyoming Students struggle with reading, only 48.75% of third grade students are at a third grade reading level the end of third grade. In fourth grade students are no longer taught how to read, instead they read to learn.

To know Paul was to love him. He was a son, a big brother, cousin, class-clown, amazing athlete and a best friend. Paul's death was preventable in many ways. If your child struggles with reading and you would like to receive a reading evaluation and possibly tutoring, please reach out. Illiteracy is killing our children, and we want to help. January 9, 2023 was the day Paul was going to start receiving Orton-Gillingham instruction at school, instead he never made it to that class or home.



In Loving Memory of

PAUL K. PINE

February 17, 2011 - January 12, 2023