



A HOME SCHOOL STUDENT'S SUCCESSES

Slither is an ordinary desert snake, who lives on his own with a rather old pet snail, Lerry. Slither's life is very uneventful, not much ever happens for Slither, except the occasional hunt for food. He lives near a lake with very few other snakes around.

Slither has gotten tired of his burrow being too cramped for him to comfortably sleep and hibernates. He decides to improve his musty burrow. Rearranging his belongings, digging out more rooms, and whatever he finds to improve his burrow, but then he digs out behind his sleeping area and discovers an odd tablet. It appears to be made out of some old granite, it is deeply cracked at some points with a rough surface.

Slither examines it and discovers a hive of hieroglyphs etched onto the stone, as well as a mysterious map; he cannot make out what the hieroglyphs mean. There does seem to be two languages on the tablet. The first of which Slither cannot understand, the second of the two he recognizes as the language of the "Snake Tongue" Slither does not know much of the language but is able to make out some of the words.

Beyond jvelen deep and mountains tall
there is a cave yoj wavi uj fall
Beyond nove of most
hroven to both snake and man
Jren kreve seek, a fortune deep



When longtime EVTA tutor, Marta, began working with Jordan, he wanted to learn to write a fiction story. The student was accustomed to writing just short sentences. In addition, he was unaware of how to use all of the helpful tools on Google Docs-grammar and spell check.

A Dixon homeschool student's creative writing story.
Photo: Marta Chilton

Content-wise- Jordan was omitting motives from his characters' actions so the reader was left confused and wondering "why?"

In order to help Jordan, Marta guided him to write the basic ideas he wanted in a sentence and then to add adjectives, adverbs, and clauses. The student was introduced to figurative language as a device to make sentences richer: similes and metaphors and how to show motives for his characters (still in progress).

By the end of the school year, Jordan learned more information-rich sentences. Jordan learned to use all of the tools on Google Docs-esp grammar and spell check. He also successfully mastered the use of sentence structure and figurative language. Jordan's story is still a work in progress-having not yet attained the narrative climax.

EVTA's math tutor, Lorraine supported him with the Edgenuity curriculum and he showed strength in his tenacity and approach to persevering through the online curriculum. Jordan found the monotony of the Edgenuity tedious and challenging, as there was no fast forwarding the videos if and when you got the concept; so, for someone like him, who has attention deficit challenges, this was a painful process. Fortunately his tutor was able to access new materials- DK12 for Math; and Khan Academy for Computer Science. One of Jordan's strengths is that he is very mature in his ability and approach to self-guided learning; and that he puts the hard work in consistently. He flourishes best when his learning contains creative context or application; so, that presents a challenge to him as all the classes he needs to pass MS/HS are not exactly that for him.

At Khan Academy, we decided to switch over to work on the AP Computer Science course on that platform. This proved to be an excellent move, as he ended up learning so much from the course, and resulted in a 97% final grade.

When we first started the Math 8 course on ck-12, we chose the conventional one; but, after a couple of weeks of working on this, I could see Jordan losing drive and interest. Given that he is always wanting to explore and engage with his technology through a natural curiosity, it was decided that the Interactive Math 8 course would be best, and this turned

out to be true as he was able to fully complete the course and test out with an A grade.

Jordan knows who he is and what he is interested in, and his tutor considered that to be an amazing strength for someone so young. Jordan's strengths can also present a challenge, as not all of the classes he will be required to take to pass HS will be of interest to him; but, we believe he has the ability to overcome these challenges.

Over the course of the school year, Jordan continued to demonstrate a strength and tenacity to dig deep and do the necessary work to improve his grade. Of course, this was easier for him with the AP Computer Science course, as he has a passion for that subject; but, he still managed to smoothly move through the interactive Math 8 curriculum on ck-12, completing the entire course, and passing with an A.

EVTA notes: Marta Chilton began working with "Jordan" in the spring of 2024 after he had returned to homeschooling. Lorraine Edge Castillo started working with this student in March of 2023, and finished this year in May 2024.

"Jordan is a wiz with computers and technology, and has created his own video games before. He is also an amazing digital artist, and had a new graphic/ geometric/ abstract background image on his screen saver in almost every class. He is also a budding filmmaker, and has been videoing (with his phone and a drone) and editing the countryside around Dixon, putting music and effects to it with his editing program. It's really beautiful, poetic, thoughtful art work."

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Mistakes grow the brain



Anne-Marie Emanuelli mentors students one-on-one at Anansi Charter School through EVTA.

Anansi Charter School. She is a retired educator and classroom teacher and has been mentoring students through EVTA since 2020.

When Julia (3rd grade) was assigned to Anne-Marie, her teacher said she had gaps in Math, especially in addition and subtraction. Her teacher created a binder with some flash cards that could help Julia become more fluent in these fundamental skills.

Three times a week for 30 minutes each session, the flash cards were used to help Julia recall doubles, doubles-plus-one and subtraction and addition equations. The skill used at first was "clap and count".

After several weeks of practicing with the flash cards, they began incorporating a number line, going in both directions of the equation, either starting with the first number or the second. With the subtraction flash cards, Julia practiced counting up from the smaller number using addition to the larger number as well as starting with the larger number and subtracting down to the smaller number.

As the year progressed, Julia showed more confidence and they moved past the flash cards, into more complex Math concepts such as division, adding two- and three-digit numbers as well as word problems.

Julia's teacher was pleased with her progress and noticed an improvement on the annual standardized testing. Julia also expressed to Anne-Marie that she felt more confident raising her hand in Math class to answer her teacher's Math questions and also was less anxious when called on.

One concept that Anne-Marie says really helped with Julia's confidence and on a social-emotional level is that she reminded Julia that getting the correct answer in Math isn't always the goal. When we get the wrong answer, our brain grows because then we can stop, refocus and figure out how to get the correct answer.

The cognitive gymnastics that this requires helps the brain cells grow. Also, getting the correct answer isn't really the goal anyway; the real goal is to train the brain to figure out different ways to solve the Math concept (ie. problem) and to feel comfortable making mistakes and then fixing them.

During the 2023-24 school year, Anne-Marie Emanuelli mentored several students one-on-one at



HOW TO CONTACT EMBUDO VALLEY TUTORING ASSOCIATION

FOR SERVICES:

1. If your child attends Dixon Elementary, Velarde Elementary, or Anansi Charter School, please ask your child's teacher to contact EVTA by e-mailing info@evtanm.org
2. If your child attends Enos Garcia or Penasco community schools, please contact your community school coordinator.
3. If your child is homeschooled or attends another school not mentioned above, please fill out the contact form on EVTA's website. Go to embudovalleytutoring.com. Click on "Contact Us" at the top of the Home page to access the form. OR e-mail EVTA directly at info@evtanm.org



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1. Access EVTA's website at embudovalleytutoring.com
2. Check out our page on greatnonprofits.org by searching for Embudo Valley Tutoring Association.
3. Contact Eva Behrens, EVTA's director, at 575.779.8886 or eva@evtanm.org

