

MEET OUR OG SUMMER STAFF

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

Welcome to the 2026 OG Summer Intensive Program. We had a great first week working with all of our students as they engaged in reading and writing activities and worked to improve their skills this summer. Students have been learning about syllable types and vowel sounds. They have practiced reading through arts & crafts and sports/games. I would like to introduce you to some of our summer staff:

MARY BAUMGARTEN

Mary is a second grade teacher who loves helping young learners grow. She holds a master's degree in Literacy and was part of Literacy Nassau's very first Orton Gillingham tutor cohort. She has worked as an OG tutor with Literacy Nassau since earning her Associate Level certification from the Orton Gillingham Academy.

This summer is Mary's sixth year with Literacy Nassau's Summer Intensive Program. She's excited to be back supporting both new and returning students, and she can't wait to watch their confidence grow each day — it's the most rewarding part for her. Having her expertise as an Orton-Gillingham tutor on staff has been a tremendous asset to her students. Mary's group has been hard at work reading words with closed syllables & short vowel sounds and words with long vowel sounds.

SARAH COTTRELL

Sarah joins the Summer Intensive team with eight years of dedicated experience as a special education teacher, where she currently leads a 3rd-5th grade 12:1:1 special class. She is an Associate of the Orton-Gillingham Academy, having recently wrapped up her extensive training and a 100-hour targeted tutoring practicum. Sarah loves using multi-sensory, explicit strategies to make phonics and spelling both highly effective and engaging for young learners. She is incredibly excited to be working with the students at Literacy Nassau this summer, fostering a supportive environment where new skills are mastered and every milestone is celebrated!

LAUREN DEGEN

Lauren is a kindergarten teacher with over 20 years of teaching experience. She is passionate about helping young learners develop confidence and a love of reading. She enjoys using engaging, multisensory activities to help build strong foundational literacy skills in a fun supportive environment. She is excited to be part of this year's summer program and looks forward to helping each child grow as a reader while making learning enjoyable. Lauren is a graduate of our most recent Orton-Gillingham cohort.

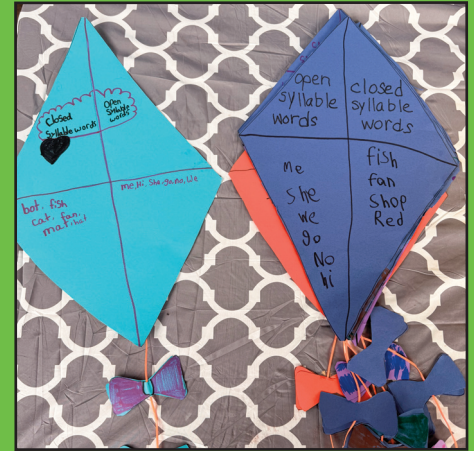
GINA MACOLINO

Gina has been an elementary school teacher for 28 years. She has an OG Associate level certification which she trained for at Literacy Nassau, and she currently works with us as an OG tutor. This will be Gina's first summer working at the Summer Intensive Program. The program is a fun, interactive, and engaging way to keep the students learning over the summer. Gina is very excited about being part of it and is looking forward to all of the engaging literacy activities, crafts, and games.



OG Summer Intensive Staff (L-R) Mary, Gina, Lauren and Sarah.

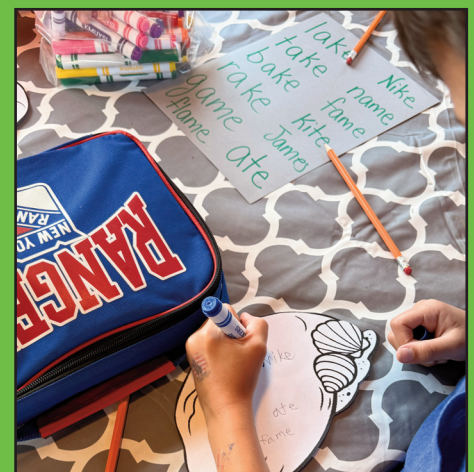
SUMMER INTENSIVE CRAFT CORNER



We decorated our kites with open and closed syllable words.



Our vowel owl helped us practice vowel sounds.



We brainstormed magic E words to add to our crafts.



We break into small groups to differentiate and work on the specific skills we need.



We practice reading and spelling with the support from our Orton-Gillingham teachers.



We practice the target phonics skills during arts and crafts.



We love the integration of reading and sports. We read a word before our turn and at each base during kickball.

ORTON-GILLINGHAM SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLLEXIA

Donation-based Tutoring - Students are matched with OG tutor trainees and meet 3x a week (September to June) for 1:1 tutoring. The suggested donation is \$50 per session.

Fee-based Tutoring - Students are paired with certified, OGA accredited practitioners for 1:1 sessions, at a rate of \$150 per session.

Summer Intensive - Prevent the summer slide with our small group program which aims to engage students with OG-based activities in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.

OGA Associate-Level Training - Learn how to become an OG practitioner and get accredited by the prestigious Orton-Gillingham Academy.

School District Contracts - Certified practitioners can be deployed into schools to provide 1:1 instruction.

For more information call us at (516) 867-3580 or visit our website at www.literacynassau.org

