



Shooting for the Stars: Elementary Tutoring with Lakeland STARs



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About Lakeland STARs

Lakeland STARs is a program within College Park Scholars and works as a partner with the City of College Park. Founded in 1996, STARs has been tutoring elementary school students every semester since.

The mission of STARs is to help struggling students with their work in school. The first goal is to see students improve in the subjects they need the most help in. The second goal is to enrich their academic experience. Tutors not only help students' grades, but also their work and study habits, ensuring their success in middle school, high school, and college.

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Tutoring Environment

There are three main aspects of Lakeland STARs. The first is tutoring. Tutors help students work through the homework and make sure they understand the topics presented. The tutor also judges how well the student is performing and gives extra activities to further reinforce their knowledge.

The second aspect is the journal. Students work on their writing by answering different questions every session. Students are encouraged to use new techniques from class to improve their writing skills.

The third aspect is the lesson project. The tutor creates a lesson and teaches it to the students.

Tutoring Experience

My student's name is Rudy. He is a 4th grade student at Paint Branch Elementary School. Throughout this project, I helped him improve greatly in English and Math. I was able to take note of the topics he struggled in and created extra exercises to help him improve.

For my lesson project, I was first going to give my own lesson to the students. However, I decided to do something different than a standard lesson and plan a field trip and give a mobile lesson. I worked with the University of Maryland Observatory to schedule a field trip for April 1st. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, both tutoring and the field trip were canceled.



Impact

This project has had a huge impact on both my knowledge and my personal skills. First, I have a much greater respect for teachers. Second, I have better teaching skills. My most improved teaching skill is math tutoring as my tutee struggled with concepts like long division. Seeing his improvement over the year both at STARs and in the classroom shows my development as a tutor.

Even though this is my last semester in Scholars, this program has impacted me in ways I cannot describe, and I plan to participate in Lakeland STARs in the future. I also would like to organize the field trip for next year as students did not get the opportunity to go.



Acknowledgements

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Future Work

As someone who was interested in engineering at a young age, I really enjoyed guest presentations at school about the life of an engineer.

I now have the opportunity to go out and teach others about engineering. Over Spring Break, I was going to give a presentation to the Technology Education classes at my High School.

However, with the recent COVID-19 outbreak and the closing of Maryland Public Schools, I did not get to give the presentation this year. Fortunately, the school has expressed interest in me giving the presentation next year. I also hope to keep doing these presentations long into my career as a Civil Engineer.