

# Learning Differences Committee

Sep 21, 2022



## Introducing Mr. Kevin Moon, MS, OTR/L

I am very proud and excited to join the district team as your new occupational therapist (OT). As a practitioner, I hope to fully utilize the scope of occupational therapy to assist students, parents, faculty and staff to identify and overcome challenges associated with education and life skills.



As part of my introduction, I would like to provide some background information regarding what OT means to me and my personal journey as a practitioner.

### Occupational Therapy as a Practice

When thinking of occupational therapy, one may imagine repetitive handwriting or shoe tying practice. Fortunately, the scope of school-based OT can be much wider than these typical activities. At its core, occupational therapy relies on task analysis, or the breaking down of complex procedures into simpler, more manageable components which can then be efficiently analyzed to discover areas of strength and

need. OTs in schools specialize in grading activities (leveling activities to provide the just-right challenge) and making adaptations, sensory processing, physical development, visual perception, and executive functioning. Once a student's strengths and needs are identified, OTs utilize their expertise in these areas of child development to implement therapeutic activities that improve the student's function in these areas, or make necessary changes to the environment or specified tasks to improve performance and support participation.

Using this process, it is possible to assist students in many areas of school functioning including but not limited to: organizing materials/planning out projects, adjusting to loud and

busy environments, safely navigating playground equipment, completing assignments neatly and efficiently, copying and interpreting complex shapes and figures, and reading text. Overall, an OT's purpose and mission is to help individuals to overcome challenges and perform to the best of their ability within their desired occupations or meaningful life activities.

## My Journey to Occupational Therapy

Prior to becoming an occupational therapist, I always had a strong desire to work with and help people. This eventually led me to my formal OT education at the University at Buffalo. While attending UB, I developed my passion for working with the school aged population through various student teaching/fieldwork experiences which included practice at a specialized school for students with visual impairments, a children's psychiatric center, and a day habilitation clinic.

After graduation, I worked with several school districts and contract companies over the span of 4 years which were located within the Northeast and Midwest regions of the U.S.. Through these early experiences and many years working within schools, I have gained valuable insights into the value of developing a sense of independence and mastery of one's environment through the use of the OT process.

In terms of OT philosophy, I believe in empowering students through the use of fun, engaging, and evidence driven interventions with a strong emphasis on building rapport and developing a sense of confidence when presented with challenging tasks. Through this team approach centered on trust and creativity, I hope to build up students to be their best selves.

Contact Mr. Kevin Moon at [kmooon@haldaneschool.org](mailto:kmooon@haldaneschool.org)

