

The Claus Academy

Client Case Study

Evan came to Claus as a Senior at a local high school, where he was a star basketball player with college aspirations. Throughout high school, Evan worked tirelessly to maintain strong grades. However, his SAT scores were too low to qualify him for acceptance to Sacred Heart University, his top choice school, or to qualify him for financial aid. Through tutoring with Barb before Claus Academy was founded, Evan was able to increase his SAT math score by 300 points. Concurrent enrollment at an SAT verbal prep course yielded only declines in his verbal score.

In the fall of 2009, Evan resumed one-on-one tutoring with Barb at Claus Academy to improve his SAT verbal score. During Barb's preliminary diagnostics, Evan demonstrated a reading deficiency, a common problem with struggling students. Evan immediately began working with Fast ForWord™, a software program scientifically proven to improve reading skills by whole grade levels. Unlike other facilities offering this software, Claus pairs its use with one-on-one guidance and coaching. Barb worked with Evan on weakness revealed by the software, ensuring rapid progress in advance of Evan's last attempt at achieving an acceptable SAT score.

All students at Claus are encouraged to engage in the learning community as a means to improve self esteem and communications. During his time at Claus, Evan transformed from quiet and reserved to outspoken and energetic. He began interacting with other students, serving as a positive role model and example of achievable success. He even took a stand against bullying with another student who had recently engaged in the practice rather than sitting quietly while the other student told stories of his exploits.

Ultimately, Evan was able to raise his verbal score by 80 points while maintaining his math score. Not only has he been accepted to Sacred Heart with a scholarship, but he is also enrolled in summer classes at the school. Furthermore, his work at Claus enabled him to dramatically reduce the time required to complete his homework during the year without degrading the quality of his work. He looks forward to putting his new attitude and academic ability to work in college, and playing basketball for Sacred Heart.

About The Claus Academy:

The Claus Academy is a **safe, welcoming, not-for-profit learning community** focused on an individualized twenty-first century curriculum, community service and social justice; and strives to engage students who have difficulty learning in a traditional school environment. We offer full-time and part-time programs, as well as traditional tutoring.

Please contact us for more information at:

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Lateisha turned to Claus in the summer of 2009 for help preparing for her GED exam. Having dropped out of high school in the tenth grade, and then being a single mom with two children, Lateisha realized the need for a high school diploma. She had been unable to find steady employment, as nearly all employers require a high school diploma or equivalent. Additionally, as her children began to read and write, she realized they needed her support to develop into successful adults. Her third goal of being able to read aloud after the Thanksgiving dinner, a family tradition, set a firm deadline for Claus.

Barb worked closely with Lateisha, combining tutoring with Fast ForWord™, a software program scientifically proven to improve reading skills by whole grade levels. Lateisha would work through Fast ForWord exercises, with Barb taking notes on weak points. Outside of the software, Barb tutored Lateisha through these challenges. The two would practice reading together, as well as work through math problems and other subject materials.

Lateisha's success has been remarkable. She now helps her children with their homework, particularly with reading and writing. She reads to them every night, and encourages them to learn and engage in school every day. As her family sat down in the living room after Thanksgiving dinner in 2009, Lateisha surprised everyone by pulling out the book *Push* to read. Lateisha continues to work towards her GED, balancing her preparation with being an only mother and working to support her family.

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