



EBUS Academy Special Education Program

Meet a Sampling of Our Learners

Meet Tim

Meet Tim, a 16-year old boy with extreme anxiety. His anxiety has often prevented him from going to school. When he goes to school, he feels physically ill and spends a lot of time in the washroom. He has anxieties around staying away from home and fears taking the bus as he thinks that he may get sick from someone on the bus. Tim's father died unexpectedly a few years ago and he constantly worries that something bad will happen. When asked, he will usually say that things are "all right" but hours later will complain of feeling anxious and ill.

Tim engages with an "educational alternative" in his local community with support provided through a combination of 1:1 and small group instruction to accumulate credits for his high school diploma. In this environment, he receives easily accessible and timely support in a small, low pressure, and safe environment. He has an on-site case manager to provide advice and support in anxiety producing situations. The small groups and one on one support also help with his challenges in maintaining attention and staff encourage Tim to use the anxiety management strategies outlined by his off-site counsellor.

Meet Kenise

Meet Kenise, an enthusiastic and happy 17 year old who adores her horse, Charlie. Adopted from a Jamaican orphanage at less than 2 years of age, medical assessment identified both cognitive and physical challenges. Kenise's individualized education program focuses on self-care, functional academics and recreational therapy as she works toward an Evergreen certificate.

Meet Kevin

Meet Kevin, an engaging 10 year old whose rural community is accessible only by boat. Diagnosed with autism during his Kindergarten year, the local school and community were able to support Kevin through the primary years. For students in Grade 4 and up, however, brick and mortar enrolment meant a 30-minute boat ride to a larger community across the inlet. With family circumstances dictating the need for an alternate option, Kevin enrolled with EBUS. Kevin's program focuses on online

educational services for much of his academic and speech-language skill development. As a valued member of his community, Kevin engages with community members in a variety of local activities, many of which incorporate into his learning plan. In addition, Kevin's mom ferries him across the inlet each Friday where he is a welcome participant in social opportunities sponsored by the "local" intermediate school.

Meet Sean

Meet Sean, a 17 year old with a diagnosis of autism and a passion for art. All of Sean's "free time" is dedicated to developing his art skills and, with 5 credits remaining to complete requirements for high school graduation, his hard work and talent was rewarded by acceptance to an art program in England. As such, Sean and his family will spend several of the coming months living abroad. Sean's learning team has worked with his family to utilize readily-available technology to deliver academic and social supports that were previously delivered via face-to-face interaction.

Meet Jackson

Meet Jackson, 12 years old and interested in computer engineering. Results of a recent psycho-educational assessment estimate Jackson's overall intellectual abilities to be in the very superior range. He also meets criteria for a diagnosis of ADHD (predominantly inattentive) and has a mild underlying motor processing deficit.

Jackson's goal is to access the Accelerated Entry program at a local university. Flexible timelines have made it easy for Jackson to complete courses at his own pace and he is currently completing Grade 10 requirements.

In addition to his passion for computers, Jackson is an accomplished writer and has had several pieces published. Because "his hand finds it difficult to keep pace with his mind," Jackson has become proficient with and uses speech-to-text technology to complete assignments requiring lengthy written output.

Jackson has well-developed self-advocacy skills and is an active participant in his educational planning. He regularly communicates with teachers to request adaptations to support his success.

Meet Paolo

Meet Paolo, an 18-year old learner diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Paolo is also cognitively gifted but reluctant to engage with activities of minimal interest or relevance to his world. During his early elementary years, Paolo accessed a variety of educational programs searching for the "right fit." Enrolling with EBUS in 4th grade, Paolo is graduating this year with an Adult Dogwood diploma. Completed coursework includes English 12, Foundations of Math 11, as well as a wide range of music

and visual arts electives. Paolo has also engaged with local art opportunities and has compiled a portfolio of his work, planning to pursue further education in the field of digital art and design.

Meet David

Meet David, a 16-year-old student with a visual impairment. David is a talented musician with a passion for technology and sciences. With his neighbourhood school unable to provide the support that he needed, David and his family chose EBUS as a way to work at home with his specialized support team. David's support team is an amazing group of professionals, including a retired BC-Certified teacher who provides in-home academic support 3 days a week, an orientation and mobility instructor who teaches him orientation skills in the community, an SD 91 visual impairment specialist who provides weekly braille lessons via skype and an EA who specializes in technology for the visually impaired. David's progress and growth throughout his years with EBUS are truly noteworthy.

Meet Kari

Meet Kari, 12-years old and diagnosed at birth with a rare genetic disorder. Highly social, Kari loves nothing more than being around other people. As such, her team is supporting Kari to develop skills with the use of augmentative communication devices. While limited mobility necessitates wheelchair use, special braces allow Kari to enjoy horseback riding and downhill skiing. Kari's passion for baking provides her team with a platform on which to develop fine motor, literacy and numeracy skills. Kari's team of dedicated and skilled professionals has developed a program honouring her desire to access and engage with her local community.