



Students Teaching Advocacy through Mentoring Program

STAMP OVERVIEW

- ▶ STAMP is a new program from Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)
- ▶ LDANJ is the first affiliate to offer STAMP
- ▶ The LDA STAMP (Students Teaching Advocacy through Mentoring Program) organization is dedicated to helping students with learning disabilities through self-advocacy, education, and mentorship.

LDANJ Benefits

www.ldanj.org

LDANJ Membership Provides

- ✓ **S**tate and national membership affiliation in one
- ✓ **U**pdates covering the latest research and legislation
- ✓ **C**onferences annually at state and national levels at reduced rates
- ✓ **C**omplimentary subscription to the LDAA and LDANJ newsletters
- ✓ **E**xclusive Members Only section on the LDAAmerica website for online training and access to leading experts
- ✓ **S**upport through resource materials, informative workshops, state hotline info@ldanj.org or (732) 645-2738, and national toll-free hotline (888) 300-6710
- ✓ **S**trong advocacy at the state and national level

WHO IS HERE?

- ▶ Parents?
- ▶ Students?
- ▶ Educators?
- ▶ Administrators?

STAMP GOALS

- ▶ Through education, mentoring and outreach, the STAMP NJ program encourages students with learning disabilities to:
 - ▶ Build self-esteem and confidence
 - ▶ Learn about learning disabilities
 - ▶ Recognize they are not alone
 - ▶ Learn self-advocacy skills
 - ▶ Expand communication skills
 - ▶ Build friendships and network

STAMP LEADERS

- ▶ The STAMP NJ Leaders are a group of middle, high school, and post-secondary students who speak about their own learning disabilities, the importance of self-advocacy, and the value of assistive technologies.
- ▶ Student Leaders will also mentor other students.
- ▶ Leaders will present at national and regional conferences, colleges and universities, as well as to school districts.
- ▶ Their audiences include students, parents, teachers, and other education professionals.

STAMP NJ

- ▶ A group of interested students and parents has been started, but we always welcome new members!
- ▶ Resources will be provided for the students who are interested in being STAMP Leaders.
- ▶ We also always welcome new students who are interested in having a mentor from STAMP.

PLANS FOR STAMP NJ

- ▶ Sample topics:
 - ▶ Self-advocacy
 - ▶ Assistive technology
 - ▶ Individual strengths
 - ▶ Celebrating successes

MEET ONE
OF OUR
STAMP
LEADERS



ELLA

MEET ONE
OF OUR
STAMP
LEADERS



MATT

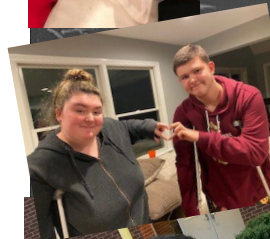
Matthew Kane
10th grade
2023-2024



**Before the school year
starts,**

I want to introduce myself...





cousin

son

teammate

I am a ...

brother

leader

nephew

self-advocate

grandson

friend

volunteer



I like to ...

- Spend time with my friends
- Play basketball
- Throw shot put & disc
- Ride my bike
- Play video games
- HAVE FUN!



As a student in your class, you should know

...

- I'm **COLOR BLIND**
- I have some **HEARING LOSS**
- I'm **DYSLEXIC** and **DYSGRAPHIC**



The Facts About Dyslexia

- **No correlation** to intelligence
- **Most common** reason for reading, writing, & spelling problems
- **1 in 5** people are dyslexic
- Affects **everyone differently**
- Will **not outgrow**
- Do **not** see letters backward or upside-down

My Dyslexia

I read **slowly** and sometimes **not accurately**

I have **trouble spelling** and often spell words **phonetically**

I **need extra time** to organize my thoughts when writing

Handwriting is **physically difficult** for me and mine is **illegible**

How I Learn Best

- **LISTENING** to text, instead of reading it, allows me to **FOCUS** on the content and keep pace with my peers
- **EXTRA TIME** allows me to **ORGANIZE** my ideas and encode/decode words
- **SPEECH-TO-TEXT** software allows me to easily get my thoughts on paper
- **LISTENING** and **EXPERIENCING** new information allows me to understand and make connections rather than **STRUGGLING** to capture accurate notes and missing much of the content

Proposed Classroom Accommodations

- Extra time on tests and assignments
- Use of speech-to-text software
- Access to audiobooks/electronic textbooks
- Study guides and copies of class notes
 - Difficulty taking accurate notes while listening to understand
- No penalty for spelling errors
- Long or complex directions read to me

My Commitment To Success

I will ...

- **work hard** to learn
- **participate** in all class discussions
- **ask questions** when I don't understand
- **seek help** when I need it
- **use technology** to keep pace with my peers
- **share my experiences** and help others who are struggling to learn



How You Can Help Me

- Be open to **my different way of learning** and **use of technology**
 - Allow me to use audiobooks and speech-to-text technology
- Allow **time outside of class** to start or complete assessments
- Allow **opportunities to be re-taught** concepts when I am confused
- Give **advanced notice** or an **extension** on assignments that require a large amount of reading or writing

Looking forward to
a GREAT year with you!



Mentorship Program

- ▶ The goal of the Mentorship Program is to provide the students with the information, tools, and confidence that they need to be able to advocate for themselves in and out of school.
- ▶ They will get to know other students who share their struggles, which will hopefully make them feel less alone in their challenges.
- ▶ They will also learn from older students who have faced the same challenges and can offer support and hope in many areas.

Mentorship Program

- ▶ 7 sessions
- ▶ Once a week for approximately 45 minutes per session
- ▶ STAMP Mentor(s) and a small group of Mentees
- ▶ Focus on self-advocacy

Mentorship Program

- ▶ 7 sessions
 - ▶ Introduction to STAMP
 - ▶ Student's Strengths
 - ▶ Learning Disabilities
 - ▶ How Does Your Learning Difference Affect You?
 - ▶ Assistive Technology
 - ▶ Accommodations
 - ▶ Wrap-Up

STAMP SUPPLIES



SESSION 1: INTRO TO STAMP

MENTORS:

AFTER INTRODUCTIONS, HAVE STUDENTS CREATE A "WHO AM I?" PROJECT. ALLOW EACH STUDENT TO EXPLAIN THEIR DRAWING.

OPTIONAL GAME:

USING THE WHITE BOARD, PLAY 2 TRUTHS AND A LIE!

ART PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS: ALL ABOUT ME

1 ON A BLANK PAGE IN YOUR NOTEBOOK, WRITE YOUR NAME IN THE CENTER. USE YOUR FAVORITE COLORS.

2 DRAW OR WRITE AROUND YOUR NAME THE THINGS THAT REPRESENT YOU!
FAVORITE FOODS, HOBBIES, PETS, CARTOONS, PLACES TO VISIT, SPORTS.



Mentoring

- ▶ Some of the student leaders have met with younger students virtually to provide support and answer questions.
- ▶ The student leaders can connect with the younger students and empathize with them in ways that parents and teachers may not be able to.
- ▶ Mentoring is especially helpful at transition times, such as:
 - ▶ Elementary School to Middle School
 - ▶ Middle School to High School
 - ▶ High School to College

Skills

- ▶ School can present challenges to all students, and especially those with learning differences. Learn from other students about the importance of:
- ▶ Self-advocacy
- ▶ Support (who is on your team?)
- ▶ Assistive Technology
- ▶ Study Skills
- ▶ Time Management

SELF- ADVOCACY

- ▶ Know what your challenges are and how they affect you
- ▶ Find out what services and programs are available
- ▶ Know what your accommodations are before classes start (IEP or 504 Plan, for example)
- ▶ Get extra support for any challenges
- ▶ Wellness: Take care of your physical and mental health

SUPPORT

- ▶ Build a team of people who can help
 - ▶ Parents
 - ▶ Siblings
 - ▶ Friends
 - ▶ Tutors
 - ▶ Other people you can rely on
- ▶ Get to know your teachers and go to them if you have questions or need help

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ Speech-to-text
- ▶ Text-to-speech
- ▶ Quizlet
- ▶ Audiobooks
- ▶ Alternate format textbooks
- ▶ Keep trying new things

STUDY SKILLS

- ▶ Find out what works for you
- ▶ Know what hours are best for you to study
- ▶ Tutors
- ▶ Study groups
- ▶ Note-taking skills

TIME MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Have a set schedule
- ▶ Learn how to organize and plan for each day
- ▶ Use a large calendar to keep track of all assignments and commitments (assignments, meetings, practices, events, etc.)

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT INFORMATION

▶ ldastampnj@gmail.com

▶ INTEREST FORM