

# EVkids Horizons

Celebrating 40 Years

Fall 2020

## Tutoring in a Pandemic

### *How is Tutoring happening this year?*

The Tutoring Program is fully virtual this fall, and thanks to you, sessions successfully began the first week of October.

The top priority has been to maintain current Tutoring pair relationships. Nearly all non-graduating tutees have decided to return, for a total of 96, all of whom have been matched with volunteer tutors, including 75 returning tutors.

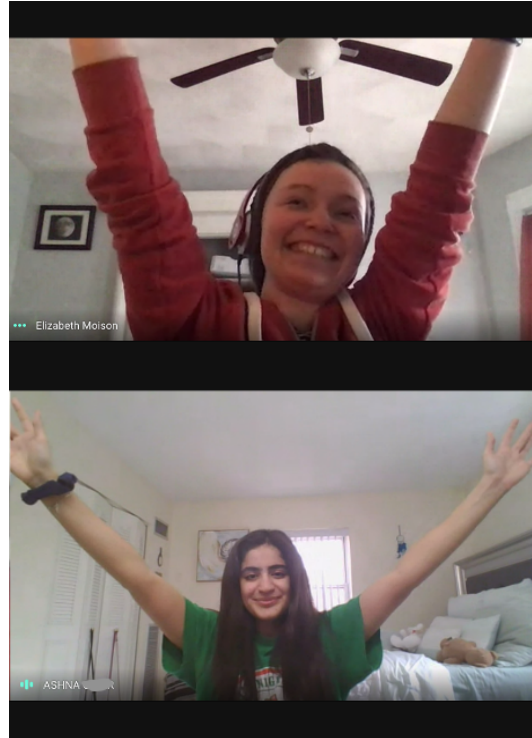
Virtual sessions mimic in-person Tutoring sessions as much possible to ease the transition and help students

feel the comfortable familiarity of a routine. Staff have become Zoom experts so they can run each Tutoring session, starting with an opening circle, supervising 10-12 pairs in breakout rooms simultaneously, and then leading a closing circle.

### *How are the students and families?*

Thanks to your support, staff have been able to stay in consistent contact with families, offering support and helping them find resources as public health and economic situations change.

As of the beginning of October, about half of EVkids students expect to continue school fully remote all year, while the other half expect to start a hybrid schedule when it becomes available. But things are changing fast, and by mid-month, Boston Public Schools have delayed moving into the next phase of school, which would include an in-person



◀ Liz Moison (Tufts '20) with tutee Ashna, now a freshman at Suffolk University, finished last year with virtual Tutoring sessions, which all Tutoring pairs are doing this semester



▲ Tutoring last year, in person

hybrid model. Families will have to reconsider what feels safe as the situation changes.

Tutor Tutee Day, usually a fun mentor-bonding event on a college campus, will take place virtually, with student leaders already working to bring their creativity to bear.

### *Is there any good news...?*

Seeing the community of support mobilize for EVkids students and volunteers continues to keep everyone's spirits up.

[Read on for more >>](#)

### **INSIDE:**

- How your support helps EVkids families
- Checking in on the university volunteers
- High school seniors look forward

# In the trying times, you still showed up for EVkids!



Trying times call for trying new things. As schools figured out their plans, and families navigated those ever-changing plans, EVkids stayed in touch through the spring and summer. When new needs came up, families turned to EVkids, and EVkids turned to you. Thanks to you, EVkids has continued to provide personalized support for students. That is the kind of extra support, along with virtual 1-on-1 tutoring and mentoring, you are providing during these uncertain times.

**Here are some examples of how you and other supporters came through for EVkids.**

- When a partner corporation announced they would not be able to provide fully stocked backpacks to all EVkids tutees, which they have done for several years, you provided supplies, gift cards, and donations to help fill the gap.

- When a few high school students found they had very specific needs -- hard copy books when their school was only providing e-books, graphing calculators to take higher math classes -- EVkids supporters like you donated five of the expensive calculators and all the specific hard copy books these students needed.

- For the first time, EVkids graduates who participated in the program as tutees are coming back as volunteer tutors now that they are in college. Ashna, from the class of 2020, starts her new gig as an EVkids tutor this month.

- The College Success Project, which supports EVkids graduates who are currently in college, has matched up 12 first-generation college students with mentors. Half of the students have been reunited with tutors they were previously paired with in the 1-on-1 Tutoring Program when they were tutees!



## *How are the volunteer tutors doing?*

EVkids tutors are as committed and upbeat as ever. About 75% of this year's tutors also tutored last year. They know it will take a lot of energy to support a young person in the midst of a global pandemic, but they are eager to get started. Some are nervous about how different this year will be for themselves, their tutees, and their Tutoring relationship.

While it varies by campus, the majority of tutors are on campus and doing a hybrid of remote and in-person classes. International tutors have returned home to their countries, and a small number have even made the commitment to wake up early to tutor, even with a 12-hour time difference!

## *Checking In*

## *How are the College Success students doing?*

Students in the College Success Project (EVkids graduates who are now in college) continue to receive support almost as normal, via phone and text conversations. Remote learning is a special challenge for some of our students who had chosen not to do online degree programs because they knew it was not a good fit for them. Having a 1-on-1 College Success mentor is especially helpful now, when their college experience is not what they had planned.



# *EVkids make the most of their senior year*



Jaryah (left) loves math, and is the first high school senior who will be graduating from the EVkids Tutoring site at the Dewitt Center, which just opened two years ago. Her tutor Johanna (Northeastern, PhD '24) has a bubbly personality that helps Jaryah feel comfortable at EVkids. The pair has worked hard during Tutoring to build a trusting relationship and to improve Jaryah's organizational skills and her ability to focus in class. Jaryah hopes to become a real estate agent someday. This year, Jaryah and Johanna will be focusing on college applications.

A dedicated and driven student, Erwin (left) has dreams of becoming a civil rights lawyer. He and his tutor Kevin Doherty (Tufts '20) enjoyed studying French together and matching wits over chess at the end of each Tutoring session last year. This year, Erwin will get extra support on his college applications through the EVkids College Success Project.



When Kain starts college next year, he will be the second person in his family to do so, following his brother, an EVkids graduate and current college sophomore. Kain plans to be pre-med in college, and took an opportunity to jumpstart his medical training this summer, learning about anesthesiology as a part of the MGH Youth Scholars Program.



A talented artist and student, Vlad will spend his senior year as a dual enrollment student, attending classes at Wentworth Institute of Technology through the Year 13 program, alongside his regular high school classes. He hopes to use his senior year and Year 13 to learn more about digital and industrial design.

Celebrating 40 Years of

# Closing the Distance



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