

Huntington Learning Center of Clifton Park

John Ryan - Owner

Success Magazine: John, why did you choose to open a Huntington Learning Center franchise?

John Ryan: I first opened the center with local sports in mind. We have so many strong athletes in our area, but not enough of them are going to the top schools. My thought was to attack this problem from the scholastic side and get these students in via their grades rather than their athletic talent. If a student is referred to our program from a coach or a school faculty member, we will donate 50% of the testing proceeds back to their school or athletic program. Upon opening, I realized that there are many club and band members that would also like to go to the top schools in the country, so we recently added similar programs for these organizations as well. I love our community and truly hope that Huntington Learning Center can help make this area a hot bed of scholastic talent!

SM: Do parents recommend your program?

JR: With 96% of our parents happy with our services and 93% of our parents recommending us to friends and family, yes, they absolutely do.

SM: You provide tutoring solutions for children grades Pre K-12. What subjects are taught?

JR: We teach the skills necessary to be successful in school. We give a diagnostic evaluation that allows us to pinpoint the specific skills that are lacking and causing our students to struggle in school. This allows us to spend time on only the skills that our students are lacking and not wasting time on skills they already know.

SM: Do you do any specialized test preparation, like SAT or ACT?

JR: I believe we have the best SAT/ACT preparation in the area. We have our students come in and take an actual (retired) SAT/ACT so we can see what specific areas need the most work. We then work with these students on a 1:1 basis so that only their needs are met. All of our SAT teachers have taken the SAT before employment and scored on an appropriate level to teach their particular portion.

SM: Are your tutors certified? How do you ensure you have the best people for the job?

JR: All of our teachers are certified teachers who work, or have worked, in the school districts. The teachers



that come to us, do so out of a love for teaching. They crave the opportunity to teach in small groups and 1:1 situations that they are not afforded in their daytime classrooms. We have teachers from some of the strongest schools in the country, such as Cornell, Yale, Hofstra, SUNY Geneseo, and the University of North Carolina.

SM: Why is it important for a child who is struggling in school to be tutored? How can this affect their self-esteem?

JR: Many of our parents come in after years of fighting with their kids about their school work. This breaks my heart every time I hear it because I know the solution is behind my doors; I only wish I could have been able to alleviate the pain they have all felt sooner. The longer a student goes without getting the help they need, the more likely they will be to give up on themselves. We can help every student strengthen the skills they need to be successful in school. We have too many success stories for parents not to give us a try before it is too late.



Huntington
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