Learning Resource Spotlight: Meg Perkins

Meg Perkins is a Learning Specialist supporting Middle School students with academic challenges and differences at Stanley since 2006. She heads our Jane Levy Learning Center (sometimes referred to as the JLLC) from the garden level of Building Two. Meg is the torch-bearer of the Center’s founder, Jane Levy, a mother of two Stanley graduates Josh and Matt.

Meg loves working with our students, a passion she supports with a devotion to her own lifelong study. On the [JLLC web page](http://example.com) you can find a short list of articles from Meg’s reading and research in her subject area. Those articles are there to support parents, teachers and anyone, really, who wants to know more about working with students and learning differences.

The students Meg works every week would say she genuinely cares about them, supports them and goes to bat for them. “I am most passionate about leading the students I work with to the realization that they may struggle with one or many academic issues,” says Meg, “but they are gifted and advanced in so many other areas. I am proud of my part of supporting students in feeling pride in themselves.”

Meg grew up on a farm in western Massachusetts and came to Colorado for the climate. While she sojourned for the weather and our great outdoors, she stayed upon meeting the love of her life - a happy discovery which led Meg to stay the Colorado course for the following four decades (and counting!). Together, Meg and her husband raised three children with learning disabilities. “Being thrown into the world of intervention led me into the world of education,” says Meg.

“Stanley called to me because of the desire to differentiate and support children where they are in their development. Stanley is also a community,” adds Meg, “and the collegial support and collaboration is wonderful for someone in my role here.”

With several degrees in psychology, sociology, curriculum development and instruction and special needs training, Meg also carries certifications in the realms of dyslexia and executive function. Her real-life experience over the past 35 years includes translatable experiences with the similar and unique learning disabilities of her own children. During her career, Meg has had the opportunity to grow in her practice as a lead teacher at Littleton’s Havern School for Children with Learning Disabilities. She served on the board of the International Dyslexia Association, Rocky Mountain branch, for six years and continues to take trainings and workshops there.

“The proudest moment in my career,” says Meg, “was the opportunity to work with a graduate of Fletcher Miller school with a series of complex challenges who failed to learn to read all through his schooling. When he came to me at the age of 18, I was able to help him become functionally literate.”

A favorite quote of Meg’s, “Life is not fair, but it is still good,” illustrates Meg’s approach. Says Meg, “The special students I work with often feel that life is not fair and they need to be supported in that reality. We emphasize that these students also have such wonderful talents and strengths that make the world a better place. Stanley is a place where kids are free to express themselves without fear of traumatic failure. Students are encouraged to follow their passion and learn through that conduit. The safety of our academic environment encourages growth and make stronger citizens.”

Outside of school, Meg spends most of her spare time with her close-knit family, enjoying their love and laughter. The remaining precious-few spare moments, you can find Meg reading – no doubt for pleasure and a bit of continuing education – or walking in the great Colorado air.