

## **Intro: Karie Denig**

I have 4 children

Andrew - Age 3

Alanna - Age 5

Deegan - Age 11

Nathan - Age 14

## **No Internet Access:**

- Had it installed in 2015 (never worked)
- Contacted a few different company.
- Only ONE option in our area...scheduled install and they never showed up.
- Antenna Service - over \$1,000 (no guarantee)

**Drew:** Just started preschool last year.

- Hasn't shown signs of educational impact yet.

**Alanna:** Kept her in preschool instead of moving on to young 5's.

- No exposures in preschool.
- Thriving in kindergarten.
- Learning to read and write. Some math.
- Recently celebrated Valentines - other kids could barely write their own names.
- If we had sent her to public school / would missed days have caused her delays?

**Deegan:** Never had issues with school.

- Missed out on many days of school due to Covid / Policies.

## **- Transition from Elementary to Middle School**

- Grades dropped every time he wasn't in school.

## **- 5th Grade Report Card / M-Step / Current Grades**

**Nathan:** At age 4 mom knew something was off. Changed pediatricians

- Diagnosed with ADHD in 2nd Grade. (Started meds) No help from school
- 3rd Grade teacher was AMAZING!
- Worked closely with Nathan. He struggled with tasks.
- He described it to her as having 5 ideas at once.
- She suggested IEP or 504

## **IEP = Individualized Education Program**

Legal document under United States law that is developed for each public school child in the U.S. who needs special education. It is created through a team of the child's parent and district personnel who are knowledgeable about the child's needs

**504 Plan** = Plan developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives accommodations that will ensure their academic success and access to the learning environment.

**2016 IEP Began** = People present: Mom / Teacher that suggested it / Principal / Social Worker / Team Rep / Special Ed Provider. Nathan was finally getting the help he needed.

**2017 Psychological Exam** = Suggested therapy to help and continuation of IEP

**2018 Annual Evaluation** = Still needs help

- Set goals...By March 2019 they wanted Nathan to be completing 90% of assigned tasks.
- Still had a teacher that was supposed to take him 1-on-1.
- Teacher relied on Nathan to come to her...She would simply ask Nathan if he needed help with

work, he'd say "no" and nothing would get done.

**March 2018 (end of 5th Grade) =** School says he achieved or maintained what was expected of him. (93% of work was turned in)

- Mom knew his grades were poor.
- She felt the school pushed her to end the program.
- People present this time: Current teacher that was responsible for helping him / and Special Education teacher.

### **Barely passes Middle School**

#### **-Go over averages**

#### **Freshman Year Starts:**

- Mom sends email asking school counselor for help!
- 504 gets put in place

#### **- Now he is INELIGIBLE for Baseball.**

**(2017 stat) About 25 percent special education students drop out of high school in Michigan, compared to a national average of about 18.5 percent.**

#### **- Discuss internet issue for viewing assignments.**

- Had to move him in with his grandparents so they can help him stay on task daily. Other families may not have that option.
- Tutor is 100% something we could have used and still can use!
- Unfortunately we Can't afford it due to rising cost of EVERYTHING.
- Would be easy to blame the teachers...but unfortunately over the last 2 years, due to covid...

Academic success wasn't in the cards they were dealt.

- Their main focus had to be covid safety and keeping the numbers down.
- Not ONCE has the school reached out to offer help for our struggling students.
- If this program was available, the school could have had something to offer us when we questioned our children's poor grades.

When I heard about this opportunity to help children that are struggling academically I wanted to be involved. While these past 2 years have been a struggle for us, I'm sure there are many families that have had a far more difficult time than we have.

-Single parent households / Parents that aren't able to help them / Other learning disabilities & more  
Regardless of anyones political views or agenda...Quality of Education is something that everyone should be united on. These kids have missed out on so much already, both in and out of school...A failure in their education due to the lack of time in the classroom and not having additional tools at their disposal just isn't fair to them.

Something needs to be done to help these kids make up for lost time and this is a great start!