



ORTON - GILLINGHAM
In Our Own Words



Joanie Gerken

Fellow/AOGPE



The educational approach that is best suited for any student is one that recognizes the student's strengths, weaknesses, and learning preferences. This is especially true for students diagnosed with dyslexia or a specific learning disability in reading. The Orton-Gillingham Approach incorporates multisensory strategies and activities into lessons to provide learners with more than one way to understand the concepts and skills taught. The guiding principles of the Orton-Gillingham Approach are upheld by the Fellows who train educators to recognize the strengths, weaknesses, and learning preferences of the students they teach.

Kristin Lane

*The Fletcher School's
Fellow/AOGPE*



At The Fletcher School, we train all our K-12 teachers in the Orton-Gillingham Approach, which entails a 70-hour course. Fletcher's Orton-Gillingham Approach differs from a learning support program because each lesson is individualized to meet the student's unique learning profile. The child's performance determines the pacing. The teacher identifies and analyzes each student's progress and areas requiring additional practice and uses this information to plan the next lesson. Specific strategies are chosen based on the child's unique strengths and areas of need. At Fletcher, we infuse the Orton-Gillingham Approach into everything we teach in all subject areas.

Debbie Broxterman

*Fifth Grade
Language Arts Teacher,
Certified/AOGPE*



Connecting individually with our students is essential in encouraging reading and writing success. We individualize each student's lessons using the Orton-Gillingham Approach by providing multisensory instruction that includes simultaneous visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile methods. When students apply these strategies and their strengths in the classroom, they progress from supported practice to independent practice and, in the process, enhance their learning and memory. Our students engage in their learning cognitively with these particular techniques, but most importantly, they enjoy this type of instruction, which increases their self-confidence and helps them find success.

Chandler McIntyre

*First and Second Grade
Language Arts Teacher,
Certified/AOGPE*



The Orton-Gillingham Approach is truly a gift. This explicit, multisensory approach to literacy provides the student with consistent positive feedback, daily review and reinforcement of spelling rules and concepts, and the essential tools and strategies necessary to grasp and apply literacy skills in reading and spelling. The small group instruction allows for individualized attention, where the teacher meets each student exactly where that student is in the scope and sequence, while recognizing strengths and weaknesses. Every day at The Fletcher School is an opportunity to learn and grow, and the student-teacher collaboration allows students to achieve their full potential and gain confidence. It's a win-win!