

*"It feels like destiny that I now work as an Occupational Therapist at Pittsburgh Public Schools, the very place that sparked my interest in this fulfilling profession."*



Promise Alum • **Dr. Evan Buchheit**

## Championing Equity and Accessibility in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh SciTech class of  
**2013**

**University of Pittsburgh**  
Bachelors of Science, Natural Science

**Chatham University**  
Doctorate, Occupational Therapy

**Occupational Therapist** Pittsburgh Public Schools

During my time at Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy, I immersed myself in the school community, engaging in multiple robotics teams and being an active member of the high school design squad. Together, we had the opportunity to create some cool technology, including hoverboards – a thrilling experience that fueled my curiosity for innovation. However, beyond my various hobbies, my true passion was breaking down barriers for individuals with disabilities, and this passion continues to be a driving force in my life.

My motivation is deeply personal; it stems from the profound relationship I share with my brother and best friend, Jacob. Jacob lives with disabilities that require therapy and assistive technology to help him lead his best and most independent life. It was during his time at Pioneer Academy at Pittsburgh Public Schools, that I witnessed the impact of occupational therapy on Jacob's life. I became committed to pursuing a path that would enable me to help others and ensure accessibility for those with disabilities.

When the time came to choose a post-secondary school, I knew I wanted to stay close to home to be near Jacob. My decision was driven by a desire to support him while

also seeking opportunities to stretch my financial aid. I enrolled at The University of Pittsburgh for my bachelor's degree with the invaluable assistance of The Promise. Later, I furthered my education and earned my doctorate at Chatham University, which enabled me to achieve the highest degree in occupational therapy.

Today, I am Dr. Evan Buchheit, a board-certified, licensed, and registered occupational therapist. It feels like destiny that I now work at Pittsburgh Public Schools, the very place that sparked my interest in this fulfilling profession. Here, I collaborate day-to-day with some of the therapists who once helped Jacob, and the sense of fulfillment is beyond words.

I am also a proud member of Variety, the Children's Charity of Pittsburgh, and an assistant coach for the Mighty Penguins, an adaptive sled hockey team in Pittsburgh.

**My aspiration is to create a culture and a collaborative space where rehabilitation professionals can come together to tackle complex challenges, ultimately benefiting individuals with disabilities in the Pittsburgh area.**

