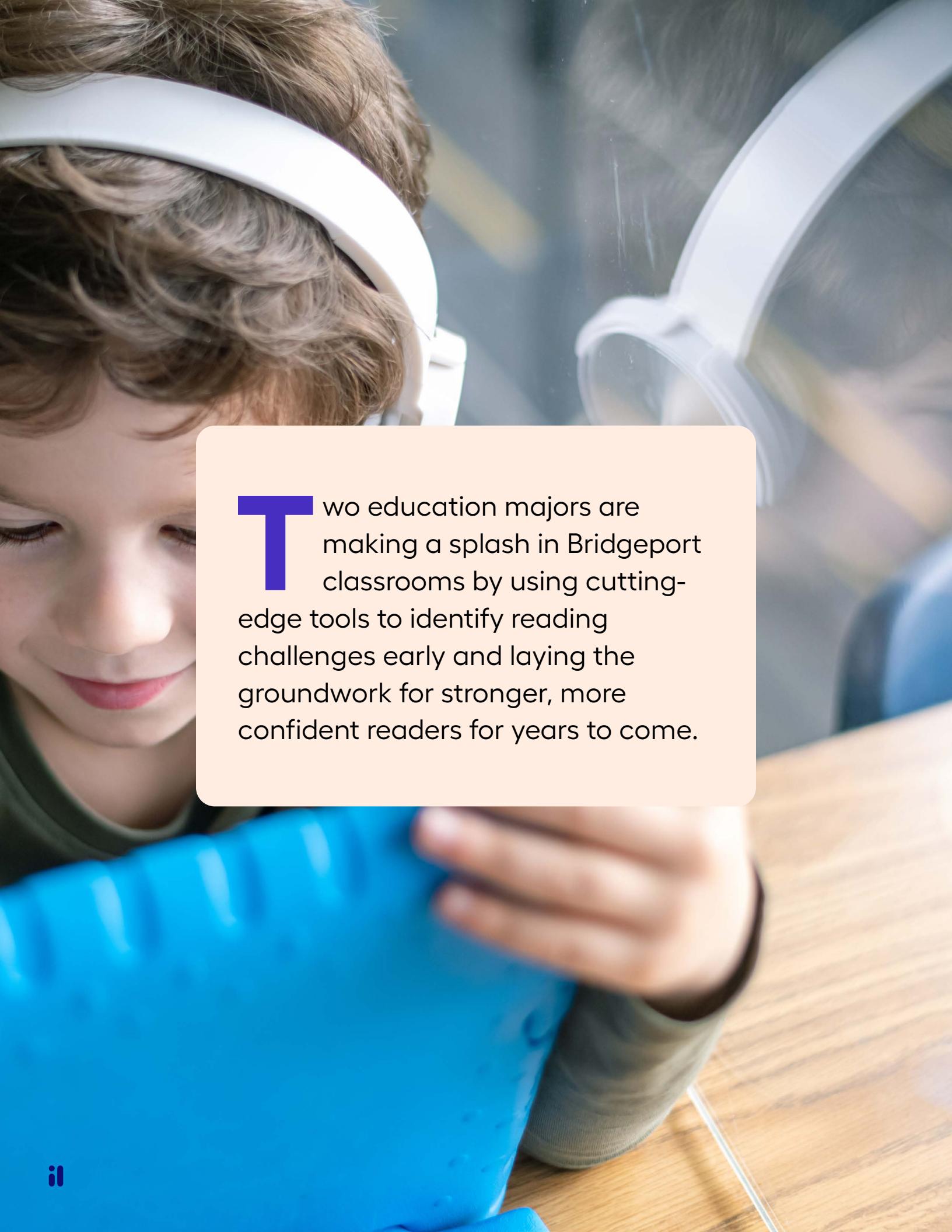


# From Game Play to Game Plan

With the right support at the right time, all students can thrive as readers — and it starts with tools that make early challenges easier to spot and faster to address.





**T**wo education majors are making a splash in Bridgeport classrooms by using cutting-edge tools to identify reading challenges early and laying the groundwork for stronger, more confident readers for years to come.

## Screening smarter, earlier

Sacred Heart University seniors Cassidy L. and Cassidy M. are preparing for their future careers as teachers, taking what they've learned in the classroom and applying it to make a real difference in students' lives. Through a partnership between The Southport School and Sacred Heart University's Isabelle Farrington College of Education & Human Development (FCEHD), the two education majors are using EarlyBird to help identify signs of dyslexia and other reading difficulties in young students — and their work is making a big impact.

- EarlyBird\* is a game-based, adaptive tool that helps pinpoint reading difficulties in children before traditional assessments might catch them.
- **Why it matters:** By identifying at-risk students earlier, schools can provide the support needed to keep reading development on track.

## Leading with insight, teaching with heart

The two Cassidys spent their winter break getting up to speed on the screener, transitioning to one-on-one sessions with students in the spring, putting their training into practice.

"Some of the responsibilities I have include creating a safe and comfortable environment for students outside of their normal day-to-day routine to take the text, making sure they stay on track with the dyslexia program, and encouraging them to work through the games," said Cassidy L., adding that extra instruction is available if a student needs it.

- After guiding students through the EarlyBird, the results are interpreted and relayed to classroom teachers, offering clear insight into each student's strengths and needs.
- **Why it matters:** EarlyBird removes barriers to early detection, making it easier for educators to act quickly and offer interventions tailored to a student's needs, improving outcomes for those who might otherwise fall behind.

 Their efforts will help catch readers before they fall behind, and they will have an immeasurable impact on the learning trajectory of many children.

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KATIE C., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF TEACHER EDUCATION, SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

*\*After this story was written, EarlyBird joined the Imagine Learning family of products as Imagine+ EarlyBird Screener.*



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