Nov 21st, 11:10 AM - 12:00 PM

“It’s Nice to Meet You. Let’s Do Some Inclusion.”

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It’s Nice to Meet You...Let’s Do Some Inclusion

Inclusion Across the Lifespan Conference
11/17/15

Martha Compton, Celeste Prange, Kaleena Gibson
Our Classes

- 2 3rd grade classes with 24 students
- 1 self-contained class for students with “mild-moderate” disabilities
  - Mild/moderate intellectual disabilities
  - Autism
  - Specific Learning Disabilities
  - OHI
- 13 students
- 3rd and 4th grade students
- Only 3rd graders currently participate in this program
A History

- Moved the special education class to a new school
- All SPED students to attend related arts, lunch, recess
- 2 students to attend science/social studies
- Then we had a meeting...
Current 3rd Grade Inclusion Program

- All 3rd grade students attend related arts, recess, lunch, science* and social studies* with 3rd grade
- Accompanied by paraprofessionals from the SPED classroom
- 3 students attend for Math

*due to Science and Social Studies being at the end of the day there are times that we have to leave early due to behavior*
Building a Classroom Community

- **Role of the general education teacher**
  - View SPED students as part of the class
  - Include them in all things: celebrations, Scholastic, etc
  - Make an effort to get to know the students
  - Avoid pre-conceived notions of students’ abilities
  - Content “expert”
  - Choose “buddies” and strategically seat students

- **Role of the special education teacher**
  - Do awareness activities
  - Help with buddy training ("buddy vs. mommy")
  - Adaptation “expert”
The power of a positive attitude...
Combined ownership

- “Our kids” not yours or mine

- Co-planning
  - We meet once a week (I have a volunteer come in to work with my class while I meet with 3rd grade)
Benefits we have seen

- Both
  - Friendships

- SPED students
  - Content exposure vs mastery
  - Social skills
  - Classroom skills (note-taking, etc)

- 3rd grade students
  - Leadership
  - Awareness
  - Character building
Teaching Adaptations

- Print out notes for students to copy rather than from the board
- Allow students to use iPad to take pictures of notes to copy
- Highlight important information
- Adjust our expectations for mastery of content
All students have a space
Assessment
Adaptations/Modifications

- Limit questions
- Limit multiple choice response options
- Reduce language in questions
- Reduce number of assessment questions
- Assessments administered verbally
- Assessments administered in small group/individual
- Allow use of notes as reference for some students
- Examples: Explorers, Fossils, Minerals
Our plans for the future

- Select one or two essential concepts for some students to determine mastery
- Based on these essential concepts, pre-teaching and additional instructional support within the self-contained classroom
- Our shared students added to 3rd grade teachers’ Canvas (online district portal) to which all presentations will be added for students to access at home and in SPED class
- Begin working with 4th grade teachers to begin a similar program for 4th grade SPED students and to prepare them for the students they will be getting next year