



The National Catholic Board on Full Inclusion
Making Private School Dreams a Reality for Children with
Down Syndrome

Our Mission:

To inspire Catholic schools to begin the process of becoming inclusive

**To educate teachers, parents, principals and priests on what it takes to be
an inclusive school**

**To provide the educational research and real life experiences that support
inclusion**

Meet Patrick

- Patrick was fully included: Kinder - 8th Grade at St. James School in Davis, CA
- No formal program - evolved into teachers wanting to learn more and do more
- Did have an aide for the whole time
- Made friends
- Elected to student council
- Participated in all activities
- Truly became a part of the community - making all sacraments with his class
- Academic growth, social growth and emotional growth



Meet Thomas

- Fully included at American Martyrs School in Manhattan Beach, CA - currently in 7th grade using a modified curriculum



- training to be an altar server for the school
- Participates fully in class with peers:
mass, science fair, sports, Christmas concert
- Important role of instr. aide:
communicator, teacher, cheerleader
- Team approach is vital!
- Financial piece: be creative, “school” therapist
for discounted rates, fundraiser for inclusion

Meet Gretchen

- Fully included at St. Apollinaris School in Napa, CA. Currently in 5th grade.
- Gretchen's class is known for being the best class in the school. Is it Gretchen?
- Since 4th grade, uses a full time educator.
- Student Support program evolved and developed since Gretchen started
- School as a whole is more equipped to take on various disabilities.
- Leveled language arts and math from 5th-8th grade.
- The teachers are no longer intimidated to get Gretchen anymore after seeing the successes
- Involved in all aspects of school: sports, field trips, academic projects, traffic patrol, altar server, choir



The Power of Inclusion



Gretchen at her birthday party after her basketball game.

Benefits

- Control of education and materials
- Social- same children/smaller environment
- Meetings-IEP like some people keep IEPs with the school district
- Research on inclusion-benefits students and teachers test scores up for all
- Empathy
- Morally/ethically-the right thing to do
- Being educated alongside siblings and community members



- Faith- students learn and practice their faith in their faith community
- Private schools have misconstrued that the public schools are the expertise in this realm and that they know how to serve children with disabilities. Oftentimes, the service is segregation and low expectations even though they are calling it inclusion or mainstreaming.

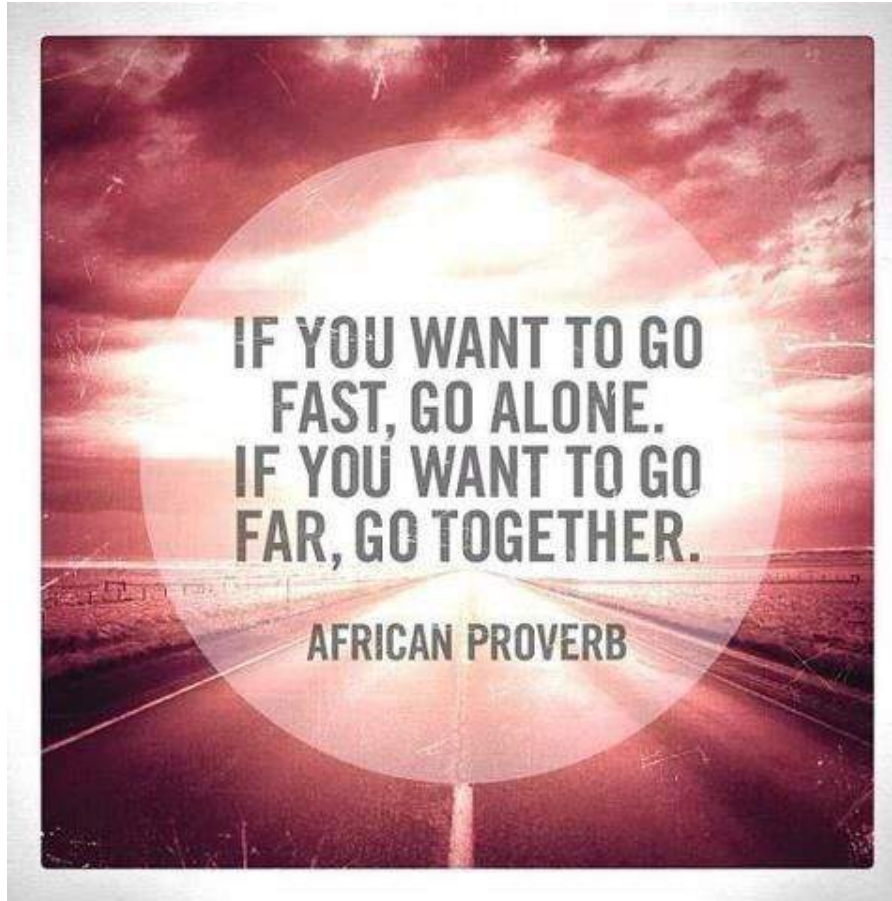
Students who are included can excel and grow...trying new things and gaining confidence...becoming the person they are meant to be.

There is no special ed world that people live in after they receive a special education, so why do we educate that way? We all need to live alongside our fellow citizens in the world.



Inclusion is about a sense of belonging, about feeling respected, valued for who you are in your own community alongside your siblings and peers.

Why do they say no?



Fear is a factor...don't know what it looks like, can't picture it, don't know how to do it because we have never done it before...that's why videos, pictures, testimonials, work samples can alleviate the unknown.

How to get the ball rolling?

- Buy in-really only need two people-if this is your home parish especially if siblings are attending presently, it is your home. All your children belong
- Clear expectations
- Break curriculum down by importance
- Educate the educators-self, inclusion specialists, behaviorists
- Never underestimate your child's ability-they will rise to the occasion in steps
- Your child will soften the heart and greatly influence the entire school often leading to real transformation
- Be willing to help
- Be flexible
- Be appreciative and easy to work with
- Set up a program for success
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in your child
- Educate children/parents in the classroom

Ensure Success

- Increased wait time for responses
- Peer support/note taking/tutoring
- Utilize technology-ipads
- Teacher training-parents and professionals
- Copy of textbooks at home
- Modify assignments
- Give parents power to say enough
- Daily communication log
- Copies of tests ahead of time
- Extra time on tests and assignments
- Quiet place to have tests read aloud

Finances

- To really make a statement about inclusion, we believe the parish school should embed the cost of inclusion within the tuition of all students citing the mission/purpose of the school
- Does not have to cost more
- Figure out where money is best spent-speech, pt, aide
- Consider extra fundraisers/parishioners who might be willing to donate programs/services
- Do not assume a 1:1 aide is necessary. Consider an extra person for the whole class. Your child is not the only one who needs more help
- Share costs with other families

Questions

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.
THE ENEMY HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.
BE READY FOR BOTH.
JUST BE WISE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHICH ONE TO BATTLE AND WHICH ONE TO EMBRACE.

Just Breathe

Finding someone who you don't have explain things to, they just understand, is so comforting.

You were born to be real, not to be perfect. You're here to be you, not to be what someone else wants you to be. Stand up for yourself, look them in the eye, and say "Don't judge me until you know me, don't underestimate me until you've challenged me, and don't talk about me until you've talked to me."

MY WISH FOR YOU IS THAT THIS LIFE BECOMES ALL THAT YOU WANT IT TO. YOUR DREAMS STAY BIG AND YOUR WORRIES STAY SMALL. YOU NEVER NEED TO CARRY MORE THAN YOU CAN HOLD. AND WHILE YOU'RE OUT THERE GETTING WHERE YOU'RE GETTING TO, I HOPE YOU KNOW SOMEBODY LOVES YOU AND WANTS THE SAME THINGS TOO. YEAH, THIS IS MY WISH.

Uploaded on Coolnsmart.com



Resources/Help

- National Catholic Board for Full Inclusion- www.fullinclusionforcatholicchools.org
- Beth Foraker- foraker.beth@gmail.com or catholicfullinclusion@gmail.com
- Maggie Byrne- mabyrne@verizon.net
- Erica Conway-Wahle- ewahle@sbcglobal.net
- Bookshare.org/ read to go app
- Schmoop
- Matusee- entire math homeschool curriculum through calculus
- Khan academy for math
- Quizlet- please always add a Google image to any vocabulary or characters from a story

10 Reasons for Inclusive Schools



“Inclusion is not a place, it is not a person...it is a philosophy” that we are all capable of doing.

“It is our moral obligation as Catholics to educate all of God’s children in our community. Gretchen makes her fellow classmates better people and our teachers better teachers. It is the right thing to do and it’s not harder. You just have to be more creative. The reward makes it worth the work.”- Connie Howard, principal

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Everybody
is a genius.

***But
if you
judge a fish
by its ability to climb a tree,
it will live its whole life
believing that it is stupid.***

Albert Einstein

