



VPI's VIP SCHOOL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dutchtown Middle School

An Interview with...

Doug Walker and Monique Wild

Geismar, Louisiana is the home of Dutchtown Middle School in Ascension Parish. Home of the Eagles with a large population of students and a well prepared staff!

VPI: Give me some background information on your school and its inclusion program.

Mr. Walker: We have over 900 students in grades 6-8. Our school has developed a program for students who are two years behind. We have two classes with a total of 44 students. Sixteen of those students are special education students. We have two regular education teachers and one special education teacher that work with these students. The work they receive is at an 8th grade level. At the beginning of the school year we met with the parents, students, and teachers and set expectations for this course. We have a good school and we work hard.

VPI: What are some accomplishments your school has made since the Summer Institute?

Mr. Walker: We started our program for those students who were over age for their grade level. The number of discipline referrals has decreased and the kids have benefited academically. There is a lot of one-on-one work that keep the students engaged. The special education teacher goes from room-to-room and the teachers make a great team.

VPI: What projects are your students working on now?

Mrs. Wild: We are working on a Love for Literacy campaign. Our students are currently making book covers for books to give to the first graders for Valentines Day. Our students maintain our Love for Literacy website, they appear in commercials to promote literacy, they host community book talks, they create literacy posters, and they created a library for an inner-city community center. You can visit our website. The students work really hard and they do a great job!
www.teacherweb.com/LA/DutchtownMiddleSchool/FortheLoveofLiteracy.

VPI: What are some challenges your school is facing with inclusive practices?

Mr. Walker: The biggest challenge is keeping our school on task because we have so many students.



VPI: What is the future direction your school will be taking with its inclusive practices?

Mr. Walker: We hope to start a program in 7th grade and have a 2 year LEAP preparation. The parish has addressed the over age need by developing grades and a half. Now we must focus on getting our students to do well on the LEAP test.

School Demographics

Grade Span:	6-8
Number of Students:	>900
English Language Learners:	0.0%
Caucasian:	75%
African-American:	20%
Asian:	0.6%
Hispanic:	4%
Native-American:	<1%
Special Education:	10%

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