



VPI's VIP SCHOOL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Hammond Eastside Primary School

An Interview with...

Glenda O'Banion and Staff

Hammond Eastside Primary is located in Tangipahoa Parish. Principal Glenda O'Banion decided to jump into inclusion with two feet and has moved her entire school to full inclusion for the 2005-2006 school year!

VPI: Give me a brief description of your school.

Mrs. O'Banion: I would first like to say we have a wonderful school with great teachers. We have very little teacher turnover and our teachers love our students. We are a Reading 1st school which brought home No Child Left Behind. We are 98.6% impoverished. We are a minority school. Our teachers wrote and received a grant for our school. We went to full inclusion August of 2005 and our parents are excited about it!

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

Mrs. O'Banion: We went to full inclusion. Some of our baseline children are now reading and riding on a regular bus. After hearing some of the students speak on the panel at the Summer Institute I promised myself never to let any child with special needs feel excluded like so many of them do. I want every child to have their own name tags and to have a different teacher every year like every other child.

VPI: What are some strengths of your inclusion program?

Staff Members: All the children are able to work on the same skills and many have grown. Regular students are benefiting from more than one professional being in the classroom. We are able to work in groups and meet the individualized needs better. We have the benefit of co-teaching. The skills each teacher brings to the table benefits the students. We compliment one another. Our teaching never stops! Our behavior referrals have decreased.

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

Mrs. O'Banion: We lost some teachers and everyone is skeptical until the scores come in.

School Demographics

Grade Span:	1-3
Number of Students:	335
Low Income:	91%
English Language Learners:	0.0%
Caucasian:	11%
African-American:	88%
Asian:	<1%
Hispanic:	0%
Native-American:	0%



Staff: We are experiencing issues we never experienced before. We are faced with catching up significantly low students. Getting into a routine and collaboration time.

VPI: Do you have any advice for schools looking into inclusive practices?

Mrs. O'Banion: Yes, if you are going to do inclusion, do it all the way. Do not do one grade at a time. Do it all at once so that you can deal with the struggles right away.

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