

WHY IS INCLUSION EFFECTIVE?

CURRICULUM ADAPTATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS: Grade level content is adapted and modified to meet each student's abilities.

COMMUNITY: Instead of being removed from their community to another school, or isolated from their community in a separate room, they become a full member of their community and benefit from being part of the social fabric.

SUPPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING: Successful inclusion is achieved through planning, commitment and resources. As programs grow, costs per child normalize. The resources used to support inclusion help typical students as well and provide differentiated education for all.

PEER MODELING: In a segregated environment the behaviors that a student may encounter can be negative relative to a typical peer environment. Children with special needs, and especially children with Down Syndrome, adapt well through peer modeling and benefit from socialization with typical peers.

HIGHER EXPECTATIONS: Children isolated from their typical peer group more often than not suffer from diminished expectations. In inclusive environments they are expected to socialize and behave consistent with their peer group and are expected to access some aspect of the same curriculum.

ADVANCEMENT: Segregated children are less exposed to a variety of learning opportunities and progress from one topic of study to another more slowly. By accessing some aspect of the same curriculum as their typical peers, and by advancing through topics, the student with special needs is continually exposed to new learning opportunities. While an appropriate balance between achievement and advancement needs to be managed, inclusive environments expose a child to more learning contexts.



ALL DONATIONS TO ONE CLASSROOM ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE! HERE IS HOW YOU CAN DONATE AND HELP CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS!

- ⇒ Donate on our website: www.one-classroom.com
- ⇒ Mail a donation to:
One Classroom
P.O. Box 221447
St. Louis, MO 63122
- ⇒ Call us with a donation at (314) 406-4797



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ONE CLASSROOM IS A 501 (c) (3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO CREATING INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE SAINT LOUIS ARCHDIOCESE.

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

~ Matthew 25



OUR MISSION:

- ⇒ Build awareness & educate about inclusive education
- ⇒ Promote inclusive education
- ⇒ Support parish schools embracing inclusion
- ⇒ Build a community by connecting families
- ⇒ Fundraise and provide grants to schools
- ⇒ Provide expert resources and skilled practitioners
- ⇒ Share best practices, conduct professional workshops

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

There are 41,000 students in St. Louis Archdiocese Catholic Schools making ours the largest school system in Missouri!

There are an estimated 600 children with significant special needs in need of a Catholic education. Unfortunately, of those that are “grade level” age only about 50 children receive a Catholic education. It is One Classroom’s mission to make Catholic education possible for all children with special needs.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, RESPECT FOR LIFE AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The life and gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ gives powerful example of His direct personal commitment to the sick, poor and less fortunate. One Classroom joyfully embraces the opportunity to be like Christ and provide for students with significant special needs in full community with their typically developing peers.

Roughly one child in seventy has a significant special need. One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down Syndrome making Down Syndrome the most common genetic condition. Globally, 92% of all prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome result in abortion. The frontline in the fight to respect all life is our backyard. We must welcome children with special needs into our parish Catholic schools!

WHAT IS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION?

Inclusion is educating individuals with physical disabilities or intellectual disabilities in the general education classroom, shoulder to shoulder, with their age peers. Whatever individualized needs a student may have are addressed in the classroom, and not by segregating the student from their peer environment.

Students with special needs are educated in the context of an “inclusive service delivery model” that may include curriculum modifications, support from the general education teacher, peer students, a teaching aid, or specialized teacher.

The expectation is not that the student necessarily maintains the same academic pace as typical peers, rather that the student maintains progress towards their individual potential.

A large body of research demonstrates that children educated in inclusive environments achieve higher academic gains and achieve more success after high school. There have been no studies since the 1970's showing better outcomes for students with significant disabilities when they are educated in separate classrooms. Research also demonstrates that typical peers experience improved academic outcomes and social development.



IS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION EXPENSIVE?

While every child's needs are different the estimated average cost per child is \$6,000.

Inclusive education is efficient! Inclusion is mostly about training, technique, and using existing teaching resources. Additional resources used to support inclusive education benefit all students, not just those with special needs.

Inclusive education enables our Catholic schools to better provide differentiated education for all children. Embracing inclusion leads to higher enrollment, better academic outcomes for all students, and higher retention.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING APPLIES DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

- ⇒ The intrinsic value of a human person is based on their formation in the image and likeness of God, not a social contract or utilitarian calculation.
- ⇒ Human Dignity is relational. The dignity a person has is based on how they are treated relative to others.
- ⇒ We must extend a preferential option for those individuals that society marginalizes. We must have a bias in favor of those disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and treated unfairly by systems.

Catholic Social Teaching compels Catholic schools to include children with special needs!

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