



Students learn best when it's REAL!  
Researched, Engaging, Authentically-  
assessed, and Learner-driven

International Studies Elementary Charter  
School  
Albany, Georgia

Wanda Mallard, Head of School  
Laytona Stephenson, IB/PYP Coordinator

# School Facts

- School Type: Elementary (K – 5)
- Size: Student population of 459, Title I Index -76%, 80% African American, 8% Caucasian, 10% Hispanic and 2% other
- ESOL population-8%
- SPEC- 6%
  
- Geographic Location: Southwest Georgia
- Staff Characteristics: Head of School -10 years
- 23 classroom teachers,6 support staff, 13 paraprofessionals, and
- 7 curriculum specialists
  
- Assessments: CRCT/ITBS, DIBELS, Developing Reading Assessment, Balanced Assessment in Math,

# Strong Leadership



- Dougherty County Board of Education
- School Administrators
- Leadership Team
- Instructional Support
- Partners in Excellence/Elected Officials

# Best Practices!

- Reading First
- Title IID Technology
- International Baccalaureate Organization's Primary Years Program
- Implementation of Georgia Performance Standards



# Title IID Technology



- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Model Classrooms
- Math and Technology Integration
- Balanced Assessment in Mathematics (BAM)

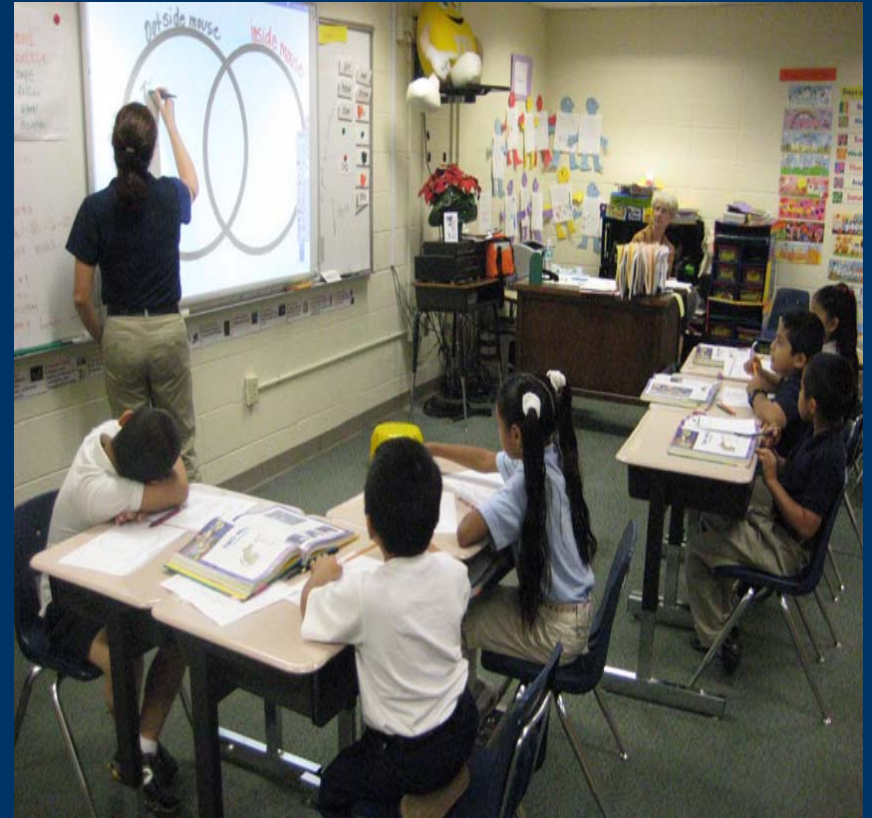
# IB/Primary Years Program

- Collaboration
- Inquiry-based instruction
- *Understanding by Design* approach to curriculum planning (McTighe-Wiggins)
- Assessments for diverse learners

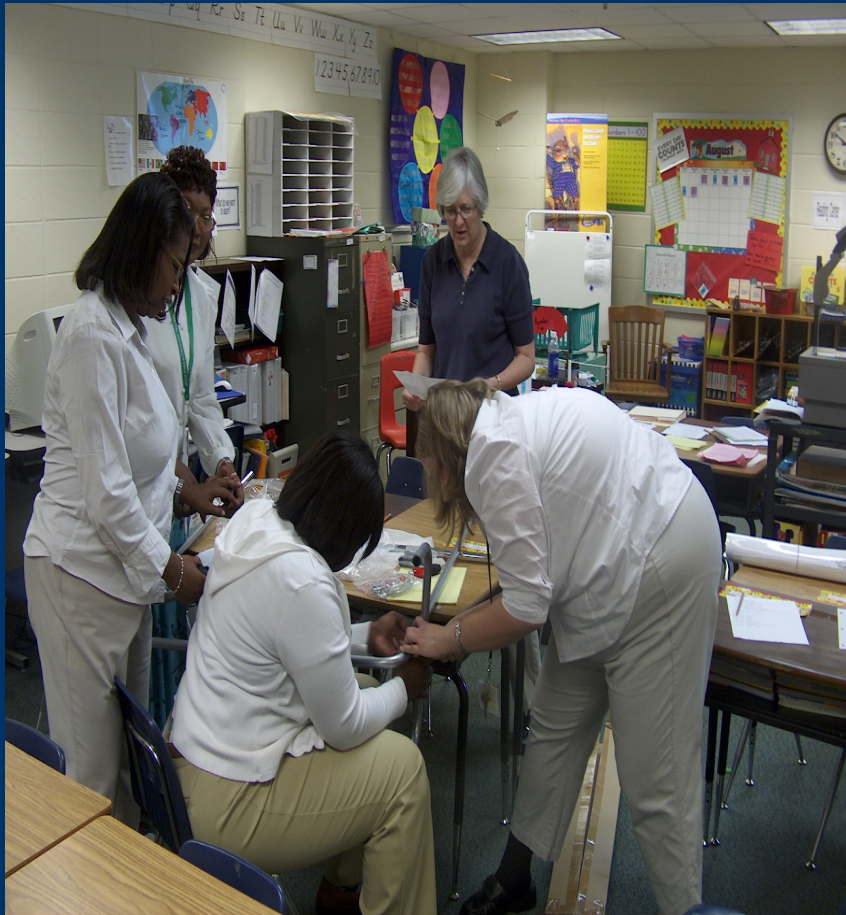


# ESOL

- Pull out and inclusion models utilized
- Parental Support (literacy and basic needs)
- Communication
- Spanish Teacher Support
- Extended-day academic support (Safety Net)



# Inspect what you expect!



- Time on task
- Safe and orderly environment
- High expectations
- Data analysis



# Summary Points

- Key Learnings
  - Active participation in learning provides evidence in various forms
  - Inspect what you expect!
  - Focused collaboration produces results
- Challenges still Ahead
  - Growing population of ESOL students
  - Maintaining highly qualified teachers who utilize inquiry-based instruction
  - Continuous self-assessment of progress towards ever-changing goals

We did it!

