



Focus on Students as Individuals Brings Achievement to an Entire School

Lisa Gallelli, a veteran teacher at Kitty Hawk Elementary in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, is a firm believer in the strength and effectiveness of All Kinds of Minds' Schools Attuned Program, both for herself and her entire school. She has seen its ability to improve achievement, create a common language among staff and administrators, lead to more accurate special education referrals, and reduce discipline problems.

“**Going through the program changed my life... it truly has been the single most awakening moment of my life. It's the most powerful tool I've been given as an educator because the training put me in the place of a student.**”

– LISA GALLELLI, TEACHER

Gallelli's story is just one of many about the impact of Schools Attuned in the classrooms at Kitty Hawk Elementary School, which the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction consistently recognizes as an Honor School of Excellence (the highest performance designation in North Carolina). The K–5 school has 470 students and 30 teachers. All of the teachers and administrators have attended the research-based Schools Attuned® Program and administrators ensure they have on-going resources and support.

Kitty Hawk teachers began to participate in the program after Assistant Principal Dr. Bruce Shepard heard about the process and decided it would be a good fit for his colleagues. The school's major professional development effort this year is dedicated to its implementation. >



KITTY HAWK ELEMENTARY

“Schools Attuned is about educators promoting learning about learning through the common language of neurodevelopmental constructs,” says Shepard, who has gone through the program himself. “As a trained scientist, these constructs weren’t a new idea for me. But Schools Attuned made these concepts accessible to all of our educators. In fact, every classroom now has a poster up describing these constructs. It’s the best professional development program we’ve ever worked with. This is a process that works well with the other programs we are trying to implement in our school.”

TEST SCORES CLIMB

Kitty Hawk teachers first participated in the program in 2002. That year students in third, fourth and fifth grade achieved 89.6 percent proficiency in reading and math on the North Carolina state assessments. By the 2005–2006 school year the number had grown to 95.5 percent proficient. Exceptional and regular education students have made Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind Act. Administrators credit Schools Attuned for being a key, integral part of these achievements.

Kitty Hawk, part of Dare County Public Schools, has been joined by other schools in the district in pursuing the Schools Attuned® Program. To date, 60 percent of Dare County educators have had the opportunity to participate through primary funding from North Carolina and additional county support. The eventual goal is to have all educators in the county participate.

‘ATTUNING’ A STUDENT

Gallelli recalls the first time she “attuned” a student utilizing this method for understanding and managing a student’s profile of strengths and weaknesses. “He had significant graphomotor weaknesses with spelling and writing. But he really shined with his social skills and that made all the difference in the world. He was definitely a leader in the classroom. He was also good at math and problem-solving. So I emphasized these abilities with him via the Schools Attuned demystification process. We used his strengths as a way to tackle his reading skills.” The student’s reading skills have since improved one full grade level.

Students at Kitty Hawk grow up in the shadow of one of man’s greatest feats—the first flight by the Wright Brothers. Now, thanks to a committed staff and innovative techniques, they are learning how to make their own dreams take flight.

For questions, or to find out more about participating in the Schools Attuned Program:

Visit our Web site:

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