

All Kids Can Learn and We Can Teach Them ... Together!

Lynne Jackson, Chris Pineda and Andrew Weak



The Berkner Area of Richardson ISD has faced and continues to face many changes and challenges. This is the case for a great number of schools in Texas and throughout the country. The clinic “All Kids Can Learn and We Can Teach Them...Together!” intends to show how Team Berkner has strived to turn adversity into opportunity.

Part 1 is entitled “Wrapping Our Brains Around It.” As a result of “wrapping our brains” around change and challenges, we have created better classroom management, smarter teaching and greater retention. It begins by identifying and implementing philosophies and attitudes which allow us to become more powerful and effective teachers. By creatively and thoughtfully collaborating through vertical and lateral teaching, our teachers are able to use

their talents and fortes to better meet the needs of each student. Our credo has become “teach the individual in the classroom setting.”

Part 2 is entitled “Pedagogy and Curriculum.” The most highly valued aspect of our band program takes place in the beginner band classroom. Every teacher in the Berkner Area teaches at least one beginning band class. (Our 6th graders are in eleven elementary schools. There are a total of nineteen different, heterogeneous classes to be taught. Talk about wrapping your brain around it!) The beginning band curriculum includes four distinct components: Pedagogy, Vocabulary, Theory and Learning to Use Our Voices. All classes beyond the first year are simply an extension and an expansion of these four essential areas.

The authors will present “All Kids Can Learn and We Can Teach Them... Together!” on Tuesday, July 23. Part 1 “Let’s Wrap Our Brains Around That” at 8:15 a.m. and Part 2 Pedagogy and Curriculum at 5:15 p.m. Part 2 will be repeated on Wednesday, July 24 at 8:15 a.m.

Andrew Weak, Chris Pineda and Lynne Jackson intend to demonstrate and illustrate how collaborative dedication and teaching has yielded some very uniquely positive results for the students and teachers of the Berkner Area in their clinic presentation at the TBA Convention/Clinic this summer.