The Power of
Montgomery County, VIRGINIA
Where do you live? determines your school
How old are you?

determines

your class
Everybody.
What happened in Virginia?
Inclusion as just a PLACEMENT OPTION
Inclusion as a PHILOSOPHY.
What does it mean to be welcomed? Why does it matter?
Inclusion is welcome. Welcome is connection.
Our culture needs it.
Our schools need it.
Our kids need it.
What we do must be consistent with what we believe, what we want, and what we know about children and educational best practice.
“Inclusion does not mean fitting students with special needs into regular schools. It means creating schools where everyone fits.”

Dr. Martha Snell, University of Virginia
Create a school culture that welcomes ALL kids in the neighborhood.
Who lives here but doesn’t go to school here?
One size does not fit all.
Change is hard.
Expect some push back and don’t cave.
When change occurs

- Status quo
- Integration
- New behaviors
- Chaos
- Foreign element

Satir, 1983, 1988
Help teachers welcome the challenge.
Organize the way the school is organized.
Classroom Instruction

Consultation & accommodations

Instruction w/ a specialist

Altered environment or schedule; social skills instruction

Alternative curriculum

Personal care assistance or physical support
Children’s needs are best met by adults whose needs are met.  Jean Clarke
Help kids welcome each other.
We can help here.
Can I truly be friends with someone who seems so very different from me?
What does this kid love, and who loves it too?
What is valued in this community, and how can this kid contribute?
Inclusion is about how we see each other.
Achievement: Students with Disabilities

1st three years of implementation

21% Reading
16% Math
same level Writing

MCPS Comprehensive Special Education Evaluation 1990-1993
Achievement: Students without Disabilities

1st three years of implementation

5% Reading
6% Math
4% Writing

MCPS Comprehensive Special Education Evaluation 1990-1993
“No studies conducted since the late 1970’s have shown an academic advantage for students with intellectual & other disabilities educated in separate settings”.

Students without disabilities make comparable or greater gains in math & reading when taught in inclusive classrooms vs traditional classrooms with no students with disabilities. No negative academic impact.

Current Research

- *Inclusive Education Research & Practice*, Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education, 2010
- *Research Support for Inclusive Education & SWIFT*, January 2017
Our future requires it.
Still inclusive after 24 years.
Inclusion promotes safe schools, without the use of restraint or seclusion.
Inclusion is about welcoming each other.