The Hundred Languages of Children

by Loris Malaguzzi

No way. The hundred is there. The child is made of one hundred. The child has a hundred languages a hundred hands a hundred thoughts a hundred ways of thinking of playing, of speaking. A hundred, always a hundred ways of listening of marveling, of loving a hundred joys for singing and understanding a hundred worlds to discover a hundred worlds to invent a hundred worlds to dream. The child has a hundred languages (and a hundred hundred hundred more) but they steal ninety-nine. The school and the culture separate the head from the body. They tell the child to think without hands to do without head to listen and not to speak to understand without joy to love and to marvel only at Easter and Christmas. They tell the child to discover the world already there and of the hundred they steal ninety-nine. They tell the child that work and play reality and fantasy science and imagination sky and earth reason and dream are things that do not belong together. And thus they tell the child that the hundred is not there. The child says "No way – The hundred is there."

— Loris Malaguzzi



Excellence. Scholarship. Respect. Courage.





IPS/Butler University Laboratory School

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IPS/Butler University Laboratory School

A Reggio Inspired, Project-Based Learning Environment

"I made my leaf with all colors of wire because the leaves on the tree are all colors right now." — Talajah

IPS/Butler University Laboratory School

Children are naturally curious about the world, and they have many ways to express what they know. They have questions of their own that should be taken seriously by the adults who surround them. At the IPS/Butler University Laboratory School, students gain math, science, language and social studies skills through learning projects on topics of interest as they discover the answers to their own questions. A special emphasis is placed on problem solving and on the arts and sciences as forms of communicating, expressing ideas and demonstrating learning. With the support of a creative staff and the Butler University College of Education, students will be prepared for a successful middle school and high school career and for successful lifelong learning beyond high school.

School highlights include:

- Butler University Laboratory School
- Multiage classrooms
- Inquiry approach to learning
- Emphasis on the arts and science for communicating learning
- A belief that ALL students are capable, creative and curious





The Butler University College of Education

The College of Education believes we must prepare our students for schools as they should be, not simply perpetuating schools as they currently exist. Upon graduation, College of Education students dare to imagine and create schools that reach high standards and promote excellence in education. These schools focus not only on student achievement, but also on the development of thoughtful citizens in a democratic society. At the IPS/Butler University Laboratory School, with the support of the faculty of Butler University and the Butler trained teaching staff, we will create a learning environment where students learn with what bestselling author Daniel Pink refers to as, "three essential elements: (1) Autonomy – the desire to direct our own lives; (2) Mastery – the urge to get better and better at something that matters; and (3) Purpose – the yearning to do what we do in the service of something larger than ourselves."

A Reggio Inspired School

There is a small city in North Central Italy called Reggio Emilia. This beautiful city has become famous over the last 50 years for developing the finest schools for young children in the entire world. In Reggio, democracy is not something that is simply talked about, but democracy is actually lived by the children, the parents and the teachers within the schools. Children as young as three, and their parents, truly have a voice in what is learned and how learning takes place. Reggio Emilia and its schools are the inspiration for the IPS/Butler University Laboratory School.

Butler University has a rich history of Reggio Inspired practice. The Butler College of Education, in collaboration with the Warren Early Childhood Center, St. Mary's Child Center and the Lawrence Early Learning Centers, created the Indianapolis Reggio Collaborative in 2008. The Indianapolis Reggio Collaborative has gained national and international recognition for excellence and the IPS/Butler University Laboratory School, the newest member of the Indianapolis Reggio Collaborative, is staffed with teachers who are members of the collaborative and/or Butler University College of Education graduates.





School Features

Multi-age Classrooms

Grade level structure will include K-2 and 3-5 classrooms by the year 2015. Educational research has shown that strong relationships among teachers and students are essential to high levels of achievement; therefore students beginning in Kindergarten will remain with the same teacher for three years before moving to another classroom.

Inquiry Approach to Learning

The Project Approach is our primary approach to developing curricula. Projects are in-depth investigations of topics of keen interest to children and provide rich and meaningful contextual curricula for teachers to teach. Small group and whole class projects not only engage the students, but also offer rich opportunities for teachers to help students master essential skills.



Emphasis on Arts and Science

Student learning becomes more complex, more rigorous and more memorable when disciplines of knowledge are woven together into a rich tapestry of experiences. Learning opportunities in different subject matter are not divided and separated from one another at the IPS/Butler University Laboratory School. Art and science are ways for children to interpret the world around them. Children use science to investigate their environment and use art as a language to represent their theories and understandings.

A Collaborative School

The Butler University College of Education and Indianapolis Public Schools have long dreamed of creating a Reggio Inspired Project-Based Learning School. Our school is a place where children's own interests and questions are taken seriously because curriculum can begin with the children's curiosity, and all of the skills, concepts and knowledge that children need to succeed in the world will arise naturally from the rigor of their work and from the guidance and support of the teachers and parents around them. Our school is also a place where parents and community members will be invited to engage with students and staff in meaningful ways that contribute to our collaborative learning experiences. Please consider joining our learning community by enrolling your child in the IPS/Butler University Laboratory School where learning is engaging, purposeful and full of joy.