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

International Studies Elementary Charter School
Albany, Georgia

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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

- 21st 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!