

Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12

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Educational Solutions that Make a Difference.

To Whom It May Concern:

One of the greatest challenges public schools are facing today is how to prepare our students for the 21st century workforce. A very high level of preparation in mathematics will be an indispensable foundation for success, but today's business leaders are also talking more about teamwork, and adaptability, as well as innovation, creative thinking, and a candidate's ability to synthesize information. PowerTeaching is an instructional process that allows students to develop a deeper understanding of mathematics concepts while developing the social skills and adaptability necessary for students to work cooperatively as a team. PowerTeaching uses the Slavin model of cooperative learning to provide teachers with a solid framework around which to deliver math instruction, and can be used with any math curriculum.

In the PowerTeaching instructional framework, math concepts are directly taught and modeled by the teacher. Students then are taught to cooperatively work together in the Team Work portion. PowerTeaching creates true teamwork interdependence by combining a team goal with individual accountability. Students are not only accountable for their own learning, but are also held accountable for the learning success of the team as a whole. Students are taught teamwork and cooperation skills such as active listening, encouragement, and how to resolve conflicts. The students take great pride in the success of their team, and are given an opportunity to celebrate team accomplishment.

Having accompanied one of the trainers, Rachal, on PowerTeaching classroom visits, I have seen first hand the high level of engagement of the students, and the increased level of success both in terms of grades, and class work/homework completion. Students are motivated to encourage and assist their members to be more successful students in order for their team to be successful. I have witnessed students reteaching concepts to other students, providing support and encouragement to team members who did not immediately grasp the concept. Students are empowered to be responsible for their own learning, both as a team and as individuals. If implemented correctly, PowerTeaching has the power to completely transform a classroom into a successful student-centered classroom.

Please feel free to contact me at (717) 624-6433 with any questions pertaining to my involvement with the Success For All Foundation and the Power Teaching Program.

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