



St. John's Ev. Lutheran School

Staten Island, NY

Rosemary Palisay, Principal

Project Summary

St. John's is an amazing place. It springs out of the hearts of committed teachers, parents and administrators. It is open to all children who desire an opportunity to be offered a quality education within the context of the Christian community.

It has been our privilege to partner with a school for Autistic children, Eden II. We offer their students an opportunity to be part of the general education community and they offer us lessons in determination, compassion, friendship, and hope. Their contributions far out way our meager offerings.



Project Results

We started with the inclusion of one student during specialty subject time. The student was in second grade at the time.

The student moved, with the class, to third grade where educational subjects were added to his schedule.

At this time Eden II and St. John's collaborated to offer this program to other students evaluated to be ready to integrate.

At this time St. John's has four part-time students and one full time student with autism attending classes. All these students come with a SEIT, SETS or paraprofessional assist.

Eden II has contracted to rent space in our school building. It will be used as resource for eight Eden II students, who will be integrated into St. John's scheduled classes.

Plans are now being discussed for starting an integrated pre-school on St. John's property. Administrators and Board members have met with local political leaders.



What We Have Learned

- This was more than a project, it was a commitment of shared opportunity to all children.
- Eden II is a public school so there were lots of rules and regulations to follow with the City of New York.
- Not only did city rules need to be followed but the state also mandates rules for students with special needs.
- Staten Island has a high population of children with autism.
- A number of school families have one or two children with autism.
- Educating the students as well as our school families is crucial to this project.