

IAN A. C. RULE, Ph.D.

Writer • Speaker • Consultant

Anne Horan
Poetry Community Christian School

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A standing ovation to you, your wonderful staff, your dedicated parents and your delightful children. As you know, I chair a large number of visiting teams at an astonishing variety of schools, but I always look forward to returning to Poetry. That's because you've got it figured out.

"Inclusion" is a term that's bandied about at educational gatherings. It refers to a school that meets the needs of students of differing abilities in a single educational setting. People may talk about inclusion, but if they want to see it in action, they need to come to you. Your Link Lab program allows you to create a learning continuum that includes children with developmental delays as well as those who may matriculate to fine academic institutions. Some students move into or out of the Link Lab as their progress dictates, and all are accepted members of the PCCS family.

Collaborative decision-making that relies on the knowhow of the faculty ensures that students are provided with the most effective curricula taught by enthusiastic teachers. Teacher "buy-in" goes a long way to promote successful learning.

Many schools are troubled by parents who drop their children off in the morning and give no further thought to their school and schooling. At Poetry, parent buy-in is a condition of enrollment. The Parent Partners program, to a remarkable degree, mandates parental involvement in the operation of the school. The warmth and supportiveness of the parents we met was a joy to see. Every educator I bring to Poetry holds a position of responsibility at another fine school, and they all want to take your parents home with them.

It was, then, a highly successful visit. You have grown and matured since the last visit, and you were outstanding then. I still say that you are a match for the acclaimed schools in Dallas and Fort Worth. I have a list of my top four schools in the area. The 'famous' schools are not on it, but you are.

Congratulations!



Dr. Ian Ezule, Chair
Advanc-ED Visiting Team