



## AT A GLANCE

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## Good, Better, Best

## February 2012 Newsletter

How many times have you heard, “If it ain’t broken, don’t fix it.”? But that position can stifle progressive thinking and prevent positive change. The horse and buggy wasn’t broken, yet bicycles were invented. The bicycle wasn’t broken, yet automobiles were manufactured. And other creations (airplanes) have created faster and safer long-distance travel.

In today’s schools, it’s not uncommon to hear, “We have a program that’s been meeting children’s needs for years, and we’ll continue to use this program. There’s no need to change!”

Even if we accept archaic thinking *and* ignore current research that indicates changes are needed in our educational system, we can still acknowledge that progressive, positive changes are needed. For example, we can do a better job of: including students who have been marginalized, engaging all students in authentic learning activities, using evidenced-based practices so students can demonstrate what they’re learning, and much more.

Many—educators, parents, students, and community members—want positive change. Regardless of one’s role, let’s work together to get beyond the status quo (the “good”). Let’s get to “better” and then “best,” knowing that what’s “best” today will, at some point, no longer be “best,” and we’ll need to evolve once again.

Two new resources on my [website](#) are available, [Instructional Strategies](#) and [Going Beyond the Teacher’s Manual](#). These provide methods educators and parents can use to ensure higher achievement for all students in general education classrooms. [Click here.](#)

And let’s remind any naysayers that although the bicycle wasn’t broken, the invention of the automobile provided many benefits for all. The same will be true for positive educational reform.

### Identify your vision:

Create a blueprint for curricula that has built-in flexibility

### Use your voice:

Brainstorm how teaching and learning can be individualized

### Work together:

Turn information into knowledge, knowledge into action

Take an action step now and email this newsletter to others.

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## Resources

### Change is Good...You Go First

A three minute video that shows us “when patterns are broken new worlds emerge”. [Click here.](#)

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Check out, [What’s On My Bookshelf](#) on my website.

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Would you love to have an easy to read, magazine-like format blog to read? Some of the articles are written by me and others are scooped from a variety of sites. Go to [Beyond Special Education](#), then click on the blue Follow button in the right hand corner.

Gift certificates can be purchased for one or more hours of my educational advocacy support, at only \$60.00 per hour. [Click here](#) to see the Winter Gift Certificate or Blue Swish Gift Certificate.

Contact Charmaine to buy the ultimate gift, the gift of time from a dedicated educational advocate!

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## Websites



What does better education look like? Not just better education for students with disabilities, but for all.

Learn how you can be empowered to change education for the better.

The [edutopia](#) website has many examples of schools that work, strategies to get there, and practical classroom guides. Teachers and parents alike will find a wealth of information here. [Click here.](#)

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[Click here](#) to SIGN UP FOR MY FREE MONTHLY [E-NEWSLETTER!](#)

Let us share our **Visions** of possibilities and opportunities.  
Honor the **Voices** of students, families, and educators,  
Choose to work **Together,**

To achieve Educational Success for All!

As a parent and an educator, I bring 35+ years of experience and enthusiasm to create positive change for students, families, and educators! How may I support you? Click the links below to learn more.

[Parent Liaison](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Educational Consultant for Schools](#)

Please let me know if you're interested in one of my presentations and/or customized consulting and coaching.

Remember, what we anticipate, determines what we find!

Charmaine Thaner

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