

Science Curriculum Inc.

L A K E W O O D , C O L O R A D O

IPS-A principal's view

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IPS? What is **IPS**? Just a few years ago, neither I nor anyone else in our system knew the answer to this question. Today, **Introductory Physical Science** is part of our curriculum. This happened after a group of us visited a school in Nashville, Tennessee, where middle-level students were using the program. I still remember the first day we visited a classroom in which **IPS** was taught. We were astonished at the quality of learning taking place, and with the fact that the students were self-directed. We were sold!

Immediately, we began training teachers. I believe that an administrator who truly is the instructional leader in a school will become as knowledgeable as possible about all programs of instruction in the school. Because of this belief, I read and study each textbook that is used in our building. Whenever possible I attend textbook committee hearings and meetings. I make it a point to read as many of the textbooks under review as possible.

The **IPS** textbook has been read by me more than one time. Yes, even the latest edition. How do I find the time? I make the time. I believe that time spent becoming aware of exactly what is being taught in my school is the most valuable time I spend.

IPS has been and continues to be a very successful program in our system. Teachers, students, and parents are fully committed to the program. They understand that the concepts being taught through this course reach deeper than mere factual knowledge. **IPS** prepares students to think, to work cooperatively, to be self-motivated, and to be self-directed.

As I was writing this article, one of our former students dropped by for a visit. We began to talk about the **IPS** program and his feelings about it. He commented, "**IPS** prepares you for what is ahead in life. No matter what it is. **IPS** is difficult, but when you complete the course you are able to think independently and your reasoning skills are highly developed." To me, this statement says it all.

If you have not explored the **IPS** curriculum, I urge you to do so now! And keep in mind that this course is designed for a broad range of students. Any student who applies her- or himself will be successful.