

SANDERS STUDENTS FEEL THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS

By Trish Logan, Education Foundation Board Member

Grant Recipients: Taryn Richard, Babbie Easter, Cindy Addie, Sanders School

Sanders School looks like any other small school that you might see on an Indianapolis street – as do the children that attend there. With one exception however, Sanders is home to students in need of focusing on self-awareness and skills to better effect positive outcomes in their communications and behavior.

Meet Jimmy S., a 12-year-old 5th grader who likes to make use of the sensory wall paint along the hallways at Sanders. “It helps calm me down,” proudly announced the one-time classroom challenge. Assistant Principal, Taryn Richard, shared, “Jimmy was always fired up and spoke in the most colorful of language. When we first met him, he had not hardly a kind word to share and was not very conversational.” Escorting Jimmy from his classroom and allowing him to focus on the sensory wall helps him focus on his feelings and what is being asked of him. “In only four months with us, Jimmy has been one of our fastest turnarounds,” shared Taryn. “He is much more conversational, and has even given a presentation in his class now.”



The sensory wall was painted as a result of a \$2090 grant from the Wayne Township Education Foundation. The wall paint and other equipment is used to create sensory stations to support students with behavioral difficulties.

Ten-year-old Cole T., a 4th grader has greatly benefitted from the sensory wall. “The wall helps out with sensory. Like if I get mad, then I feel happy,” explains Cole. He, too, has made great strides in his time at Sanders. With the help of his teachers and the wall, Cole may even transition back to his home school next fall. Cole walks and talks while tracing the wall which helps him focus on the moment at hand. As Occupational Therapist, Babbie Easter, explains, “Having the sensory wall just outside the classroom

doors is invaluable and easy to use. We can pop in and out of the classroom as needed and it is very accessible.”

“Having intervention resources nearby is so valuable,” Taryn added. “Resources need to be close at hand and available in the moment. It is so much more effective to have a child’s needs immediately met than having to go somewhere else. With the sensory wall, we are able to provide solutions for students exactly when the need occurs.”

Both Sanders teachers and students are grateful for this wonderful support from the Wayne Township Education Foundation.