

H.O.T.S. Club

Higher Order Thinking Skills

An Extension Opportunity for Students in 1st Grade

What is it?

The Thinkers' Club is an optional extension opportunity open to ALL students in first grade. Students who choose to participate will learn and develop higher order thinking skills. The Thinkers' Club is designed to:

- challenge and motivate students to think critically and creatively
- extend and enrich students' skills and conceptual understanding
- inspire a life-long interest in learning

How does it work?

The H.O.T.S. Club will be available through the school year. When I introduce a new character/thinking skill to 1st graders during our push-in lessons, I will also bring extension activities designed to support and develop the same skill. The extension activities, complete with a wide variety of task cards at varied levels of challenge, will be left in each classroom. **Students can work on extensions at home or at school. Activities will be posted on Mrs. Conn's web page (under 1st grade) for students and parents to access at home.** Students can complete as many, or as few, activities as they like! Each activity is assigned a point value based on the level of complexity and challenge. The point values are designed to help students select an appropriate challenge and to motivate those who excel when working towards a goal. Your child can decide if keeping track of points earned is "right" for him or her.

The third challenge!

The third series of extension activities will focus on **analytical reasoning**, the higher order thinking skill we are currently exploring during AIG push-in classes. Sybil the Scientist is the character who guides us in this study. She teaches students how to:

- make careful observations (study the parts of things)
- analyze attributes
- organize and/or sort information in meaningful ways
- create categories and/or label groups

As a parent, how can I help?

■ Help your child to select task cards that are "just right" for him/her. Cards should be challenging, possibly "uncomfortable" at first, but should not be frustrating. Remember, one of our goals is to encourage a life-long love of and enthusiasm for learning.

■ Discuss and apply the thinking skills with your child. If needed, you may work with your child to solve problems; when doing this, however, be sure that your child has ownership of the process and the final product.

■ Show interest in and excitement about the project! Oftentimes, a parent's interest and enthusiasm is the best motivation.

If you have questions, please contact me! I look forward to working with your child!

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