Gifted and Talented Newsletter
November/December 2018

Dates to Remember

Every Friday: Rebecca not at work

Week of November 27th: It is time once again for you to reflect with your ALP students on their progress

November 27: GT - district meeting (Rebecca out in the morning)
December 18: GT - district meeting (Rebecca out in the morning)
February 22: ***Beyond Gifted Conference for parents and educators*** (Arvada Center) Conference Registration (anyone interested?)

***Week of December 17th: Reflection time with your ALP students**: please Include MOY percentages for i-Ready and any other pertinent midyear data

Who are the Gifted?

Each month I will share a little tidbit about this population and what makes them tick.

Gifted doesn't mean thinking better, it means thinking differently and sometimes thinking differently doesn't work in the traditional schema of "school".
The role and importance of process

Creativity - how to teach it

Teaching strategies that support creative and productive thinking.

From dull to creative with one simple trick

Teaching Thinking (I love the 6 thinking hats)

Multiple Perspectives: We need to help our students see things from multiple perspectives - this deepens their thinking and helps them think more creatively. Also a Depth and Complexity icon!

Teacher Resources

Each month I will share resources that can be used with your gifted population as well as your whole class. Many of these resources will come from the Gifted Guru: Lisa Van Gemert (I heard her speak at the summer sessions in June) and Ian Byrd.

Classroom Management

Why PBIS (positive behavioral intervention and support) may not work with your highly abled students (this is one person's opinion).

Why PBIS is a terrible idea

The best way to manage the behavior of gifted students is to keep them busy learning about the things they are interested in. Busy work does not work! Think of compacting lessons so your high ability learners are free to work on projects or learn about topics of their own choosing. **Any one interested in piloting PBL units with me starting in January? I would love to work with one grade level to test it out implementing it with all grade levels the following year.**

Differentiation

Differentiation Advice - let's learn from each other, helping each other grow in our ability to differentiate and better meet the needs of our gifted learners.

Videos to learn about the Depth and Complexity Icons ***Strongly recommend taking the time to watch these videos! Well worth your time!*** Once you watch you will be a believer and want to start using these in your classroom! They will be hosting a conference in June! I am hoping we can get a large number of us to attend.

Reading

Using Depth and Complexity with Literature (this is the slide presentation and my notes during the D & C conference in September)
Lit Circles with Depth and Complexity (intermediate grades)

Rebecca's notes

Teaching literature to our young gifted learners in the primary grades Ian Byrd explains for gifted students even as young as age 3, the type of skill-based learning that prevails in preschool and early elementary classrooms can turn them off from school almost right away. This article gives you ideas for how to extend the literature. We also have Junior Great Books, Jacob's Ladder, and Depth and Complexity to help challenge our young advanced readers.

Additional resources
100 resources for gifted kids

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. Share with me areas you would like to learn more about (social/emotional needs, how to differentiate, compact instruction, and so on) and I will do my best to find that information.

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