

6th grade Center Notes for September 19th, 2016 meeting

Carrie Dickmann, Special Education Supervisor over Gifted Education presented on 6th grade center gifted support services:

- 1) Cluster grouping is implemented and supported by Mr. Mulvey
- 2) For those with ELA goals, Ms. Dickmann met with the gifted teachers and the following plan was developed:

- The units will have direct instruction components, but gifted ELA students will be able to move through them more quickly, if they are able to demonstrate 90% mastery on the individual components.
- Gifted ELA students will take the unit summative assessment upon THEIR completion of the unit, whenever that occurs; they do not need to wait for the whole class to arrive at that readiness point.
- Upon demonstrating 90% or greater mastery of the unit content/standards, student will work with the gifted teacher assigned to his/her class to choose an individualized extension project that will complement the unit. If the student fails to earn the 90%, s/he will be able to remediate a gap area and then proceed.
- Students will have homework to complete their choice learning, but the time required will mirror that of other students in the class completing the traditional curriculum.
- The individualized choice learning will extend student's thinking with more depth and rigor, but it will also help them grow in gap (relative term for gifted) areas, since the ELA standards involve reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and most students excel in one or two of the areas, but not all.
- The choice learning will be graded for feedback, but not recorded in the gradebook. This will permit the teacher to maintain a clean record of grades for 7th grade course placements, but more importantly, it will permit students to take academic risks they might otherwise shy away from for fear of hurting their grade. Students will be encouraged to fail, and through that failure, learn how to find success. (Read the book!!!!)
- The gifted ed teachers will be moving in and out of the classrooms daily working with flexible groups and pulling students aside when they reach the choice component of the class.
- Gifted ed and cluster grouped ELA teachers will be meeting on an upcoming PD day to collaborate on the instruction they will provide, the assessments, and the choice learning project parameters.

(*Note, the above text was copied from an email from Ms. Dickmann to me re: the plan for kids with gifted ELA, and all points were covered in the meeting)

For those with Math goals:

- 1) At the end of 5th grade, all students (not just gifted) were given the end of the year 6th grade math test. There are 3 sections to math at the 6th grade center. One being pre-algebra, level 1, and level 2 math. Level 1 math is a faster paced 6th grade math.

- 2) The cut off scores were at 53%-60% for inclusion in the pre-algebra course. The pre-algebra course is following a standard course flow, while including mini-lessons to address any 6th grad math gaps.
- 3) Level 1 math is cluster grouped for the gifted, and it uses the standard 6th grade math curriculum but is paced for the faster acquisition rate of the gifted student.
- 4) At the end of the year, all kids (not just gifted) will be assessed using the Hanna and Orleans assessment to determine algebra readiness and placed accordingly.
- 5) Next year at the 6th grade center, they are prepared to have an algebra class.

Other questions/notes:

One parent asked if the kids are being accelerated now, what kind of accommodation is in place for them in middle school. At this time, accelerated math kids would be placed into the appropriate level math class (like algebra) based on their end of year assessments. Algebra is available at the middle school. For ELA, there is an advanced ELA course that is open to all students, but Ms. Dickmann acknowledge a need of an honors level course at the middle schools and further professional development.

Next portion of the meeting was an introduction to gifted support services by Deanie Gauntlett, DAGEN President

Please see presentation and resource page for more info.