

Guidelines for Differentiating Instruction

- **Begin differentiating at a pace that is comfortable to you.**
- **Have a strong rationale for differentiating instruction.**
- **Use assessment to decide what and who needs differentiated instruction.**
- **Give your students as much responsibility for their own learning as possible.**
- **Provide students with student-centered activities based on their readiness level, interest, and learning style. Allow for choices for some activities.**
- **Plan with other teachers for optimal success.**
- **Communicate with parents what differentiated instruction is and its benefits**

Guidelines for Creating Lesson Plans

- **Decide what subject you want to begin with and state your objectives.**
- **Decide what you want the students to know (facts, information) and understand (principles and concepts), and be able to do as a result of the learning experience.**
- **Determine what differentiated needs the students have based on assessments such as formal or informal, pre- or post-tests.**
- **Decide what strategy or strategies of differentiated instruction you want to use.** Examples may include: Compacting, Tiered Assignments, Learning Centers, Interest Centers, Independent Study, Learning Contracts.
- **Have materials, resources and supplies ready and organized**
- **Use your support system! Plan with a peer or team.**

Guidelines for Managing a Differentiated Classroom

- **Have your behavior management system in place.** Ask yourself, Have I explained expectations and criteria to my class?
- **Teach group and team skills.**
- **Use an “anchor activity” to free you up to focus your attention on individual students.** An anchor activity is a meaningful task for students to work on if you are working directly with a small group or working one-on-one.
- **Create and deliver instructions carefully so that expectations are clear.**
- **Time differentiated activities for student success.**
- **Be sure students have a plan for getting help when you are busy.**
- **Utilize parent volunteers.** Send home a letter to parents explaining what you need them to do and a schedule of days of the week and times needed.