Planning, Teaching and Assessing Centers in the K-12 Classroom

2017 Fall Institute

Presenters

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Icebreaker

Take 3 minutes to introduce yourself to someone you don't know. Each person must share for 1 ½ minutes. Share with them one center activity that you have done, would like to do, or have seen and explain it to them. Be sure to write each other's ideas down.

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Reflect

When are Centers worth the work?

Mrs. Lodge's Library

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Participant Outcomes

- Participants will explore and plan centers based upon a standard of their choosing.

- Reflect on the importance of routines and procedures before implementing centers in the classroom and determine solutions for potential problems that could arise during implementation

- Develop a better understanding on how to effectively create and assess meaningful centers for your students.

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Planning for Centers

- Plan what goals/outcomes students will reach after completing the activities.

- What activities will you incorporate to help them reach the learning standards?

- Model appropriate behaviors and establish consequences for inappropriate behaviors.

- Monitor the progress of high risk students more frequently to make instructional changes or small group changes.

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Center Ideas

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Center Ideas

http://www.theliterarymaven.com/2016/06/learning-centers.html

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Teaching and Implementing Centers

- Identify appropriate center activities based on assessments

- Students should participate in activities they may either do independently or with help from a peer.

- Model use of new center materials during whole group lesson or at the teacher led center

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Routines and Procedures

It is important to build a community of learners so that students will be able to work independently at centers since you will be engaged with other students during this time.

When introducing Centers for the first time it is important to:

- Communicate clear, explicit, high expectations and develop a few non-negotiable rules established jointly by both you and your students.

- Make sure students know what to do if they complete an activity at a center.

- Students should be aware of what is expected of them if they need help and you are working with a group of students.

- Have a plan for students that are off task at centers. Monitor student engagement. Make sure students are aware of what is expected of them.

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Expectations

- Establish a clear system for making choices and moving through centers and teach it to students.

- Use planning board or choice chart for students to make choices of centers.

- Establish procedures for students and teachers to keep track of students choices.
- Ensure all students know what to do when they have completed a center.

- Vary the materials in centers to keep students engaged.

- Observe students at work; if a center is not working well, talk with students and encourage them to help determine changes.

- Ensure that there is room in each center for 3 – 5 students (depending on the center).

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Teacher Feedback
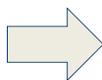
How do you keep students accountable during centers?

- Use the Seesaw app to keep track of students progress in centers.

- Have students complete a journal activity daily or weekly to monitor progress.

- Have reusable completion sheets available and provide weekly feedback on center activities.

- Maintain center notebooks to keep all center work.

- Use a clipboard with the class list to quickly record which students are meeting expectations and which students need more help

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Example

Station	Learning Target	Key Deliverable	Stamp
#1 Igneous Rock ID Lab (25 Minutes)	How do I use grain size to predict cooling rate?	Id Lab Chart+Teacher Conference	
#2 Reading Article (25 Minutes)	Where are igneous rocks used today?	Reading summary Handout	
#3 Video with Online Reflection (25 Minutes)	What is the connection between igneous rocks and plate tectonics?	Online Reflection in google classroom	
#4 Wild Card (25 Minutes)			
#5 Rock Cycle Drawing (25 Minutes)	Where do Igneous rocks fit into the rock cycle?	Rock Cycle Drawing	

Problems and Solutions

Problems	Solutions
1. Students complete work at center.	
2. Students continuously ask you what they are supposed to do at their center.	
3. The same students are off task each day during centers.	
4. There are not enough materials at one of the centers.	
5. Students are tired of working on the same centers each week.	

Station Exploration

Explore the centers at your table and use the discussion questions to guide your conversations as to how you could use these centers to support and assess learning in your classroom. When you are finished, use the planning documents provided to plan a center that addresses a standard of your choosing.

Station Exploration

• Collaborate with others at your table.

• Choose 1 center or activity to focus on first.

• Identify 2 – 3 ways you could extend or adapt the activity.

• Keep in mind:
  • The standards addressed by the activity
  • Decisions and choices children can make
  • Different levels of learners
  • Demonstrating the activity to students so that they can work independently
• If you have time, reflect on a second center.

References and Resources

1. **Elementary Resources**
www.k-5teachingresources.com
2. **Social Media Pin Board**
www.pinterest.com
3. **All Levels**
www.teacherspayteachers.com
4. **Preschool Center Resouces**
www.prekinders.com
5.**Literacy Stations**
 http://www.literacystationinspiration.com/
6. **Task Cards- Over 100 Task Cards.**
http://www.hpc.rcs.k12.tn.us/teachers/killenm/Unseen's%20Task%20Cards2_072611.pdf
7. **Middle School Stations-**
http://www.blevinsenterprises.com/Learning_Stations_Handout.pdf
8. **Middle /Secondary Station ideas**
http://www.literacystationinspiration.com/2015/04/word-mover-station.html
 9. **Technology station ideas**
http://quizhub.com/quiz/quizhub.cfm
 10. **Activity stations for diverse learners**
manoa.hawaii.edu/.../Hilberg_et_al_2003.
11. **Station Rotation Blended Learning Model**
http://www.dreambox.com/blog/thoughts-implementing-blended-learning-model
 12. **Math Stations(PPT attached)**
http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/enriched/staff/classroom-strategies/stations-math.aspx
 13. **Classroom Learning Centers**
http://k6educators.about.com/od/lessonplanheadquarters/a/How-To-Set-Up-Classroom-Learning-Centers.htm
 14. **Classroom Centers**
http://www.mrsmcdowell.com/centers.htm
15. **Secondary Writing Center**
http://www.edutopia.org/blog/start-a-great-writing-center-david-cutler
16. **Secondary Centers**
http://www.theliterarymaven.com/2016/06/learning-centers.html

Closure

On a sticky note answer the following questions and put your answers on the ticket out of the door poster.

- **What do you feel you will be able to do differently with the content in your classroom as a result of learning centers?**

- **What will you do differently in your classroom as you implement learning centers?**