

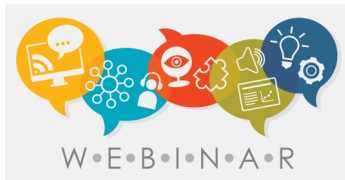
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Webinar Series

Our February/March webinar series sign-up has now begun! Here are the topics being covered:

- Basics to Reading Instruction
- High Leverage Strategies and Tools for Classroom Management
- Effective Guided Reading in the Primary Classroom
- The Emergent Writer

These webinars are done via Zoom, an easy to use platform that allows you to log in remotely. All you need is a device or computer with audio! There is a link in the Google Sheets sign that you can click to join the webinar.



Sign Up Here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Pd5YkmtFK0TYTGAfrzW_W4pe7XExhOkAYVRNXlDd-88/edit?usp=sharing

Weekly Facebook Tip of the Week

Many of you have already started following our K-2 Department Facebook page. Big THANKS! If you haven't already here is our site: <https://www.facebook.com/ConceptK2/>

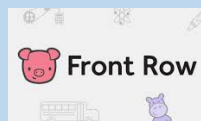
Over the past couple weeks, I've been going "LIVE" to bring you a Tip of the Week. I'll be covering all kinds of topics ranging from classroom management tips to differentiation. Be sure to tune in for some helpful tips!

Are you unsure about using your personal Facebook account for work purposes? One idea would be to create a work-related account (exactly what I did in order to create a K-2 FB page.) You could use this to follow our K2 department page AND you could create a class group or page so your students' family members can follow what's happening in your class! Just shoot me an email if you'd like a set of directions or guidance on how to create your work Facebook account.

FREE?!?!? (or really, really cheap)

Tech for Differentiation

One of the best and EASIEST ways to differentiate for your students is to incorporate technology! Putting students on a set of Chromebooks/iPads truly puts tools needed for individualized instruction in their hands. Here are some top sites that are easy for young students to navigate but provides awesome, targeted instruction at their level.



Front Row

<https://www.frontrowed.com/>

Front Row is a free adaptive platform for individual teachers to use with their classes. Students complete a pre-assessment and Front Row provides you with their needed domains and skills. From there, you can assign practice on specific skills or even specific standards.



Moby Max

<http://www.mobymax.com/>

Moby Max is another free platform that is adaptive according to student need. As students go through a series of placement activities, Moby Max will do all the legwork by assigning lessons to help students fill in their missing knowledge gaps. The program works the same for math, language, vocabulary and reading: assigning students new lessons, keeping track of results, and updating the teacher on each student's progress.



Read Works

<https://www.readworks.org/>

We've been using Read Works passages for a while now but if you haven't been on lately, they have TOTALLY upgraded their platform so that teachers can now create class rosters and assign specific passages to specific students. Students then log in with a class code, choose their name and they have CUSTOM reading passages and comprehension work!

Jennifer Sajovec
Director of Primary Education
sajovec@conceptschoools.org

“Simple” Differentiation

By Jennifer Sajovec

When you bring up the term “differentiation” everyone gets a slight twitch at thinking about how to manage all those different activities/assignment. Many teachers, when they hear differentiation, believe they need to immediately have 5 different centers with 5 different levels in each center, so basically 25 different lesson plans. We forget that we need to start SIMPLE!

The path to a fully differentiated classroom is not a 100 meter dash. Rather it’s a longer journey that can actually take the whole year if not multiple years. BUT don’t get discouraged! Start heading down the path by taking a few simple actions. Here are some easy ways you can get started differentiating or fine tuning some of the differentiation you already do!

Basic Terms

The most common idea of differentiation is to provide different practice opportunities for their students. In other words, leveling all assignments. However, there are actually many different ways to differentiate for your students. Below are the four ways you can differentiate:



Adapted from Tomlinson & Maker (1982)

Remembering that there’s more to differentiation than just “leveling centers” helps keep things in perspective when planning.

Start Small

Big things often have small beginnings. We all know you have a TON on your plate! Don’t stress yourself out by trying to do it all at one time. Find an aspect of a differentiated classroom that intrigues you and start with that. Get comfortable with your new teaching tool and feel like an expert at it before adding something new.

Not quite ready to jump into centers? Take one of your activities this coming week and try to differentiate that one activity or offer to your students three different ways to explore a topic.

Think Three Levels

If you’d like to jump into leveling by content, you don’t have to adjust instruction to each and every level right away. Take one center/activity and plan for “On Level, Above Level and Below Level.” You can plan three different activities, but you can also keep it simple by just adjusting the “On-Level” assignment.

Organize with Ease

One of the things that keeps us from differentiating is just the thought of having to organize for all those different levels. Here are just a few tips and ideas:

- Colored Folders-It’s hard for students to figure out what materials/worksheets are “their level”. One way to help students find the appropriate materials is to “code” them by color.
- Find as many of the “same” routine activities as you can (but have different level materials.) For instance, students can all play the fun dice rolling game and use the same basic materials. By pairing a couple different levels of math addition problems they solve to move forward, you’ve easily differentiated this game.
- Pre-Organize Supply Bins! One thing I did that cut down on students wandering the room is to have bins already organized with ANY supplies they would need. In those cute little totes, I put in pencils, crayons, scissors, markers, glue, etc. ahead of time. That way, student could go right to their work station without having to dig through their own desks.



Websites for more information and ideas:

http://caroltomlinson.com/Presentations/ASCD_LowPrep.pdf

<https://differentiationdaily.com/>

Just an interesting article:

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/finding_common_ground/2016/08/yes_differentiation_is_hard_so_lets_get_it_right.html?intc=main-mpsmvs

