

The Special Extra!

Special Education Newsletter

January 2023

From the Desk of Shirden Prince

Director of Special Education

“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.” ~Vern McLellan~

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a restful break full of family time, too much food (I can identify with that all too well) and some time to reflect on all that you are thankful for. May the new year be filled with new adventures and good fortunes for you and your loved ones. A new year means a new chapter and I am excited to see what 2023 has in store for us!



THIS AND THAT

Gentle reminders:

- All IEP's need to be completed **3-5 days** prior to the meeting date for review by a site administrator.
- **All IEP's should be finalized and turned in to Ana within 5 days of when the meeting was held.**
- **RSP Teachers** – please monitor student schedules for any changes that might affect service delivery.
- Please make sure you are inviting all necessary personnel to your IEP meetings (nurse, psych, etc.) and giving them as much notice as possible so that they are able to attend.

Kudos!

Each month this section of the newsletter will be used to give kudos to one (or more) of our awesome staff members.

This month's Kudos go out to Amparo Chavez who tirelessly processes every IEP to make sure they are complete and ready to be finalized. Her hard work ensures that our IEP's meet all legal requirements while providing all of the necessary supports to meet our student's needs. It's not an easy job but she does it every day without complaint, which is appreciated.

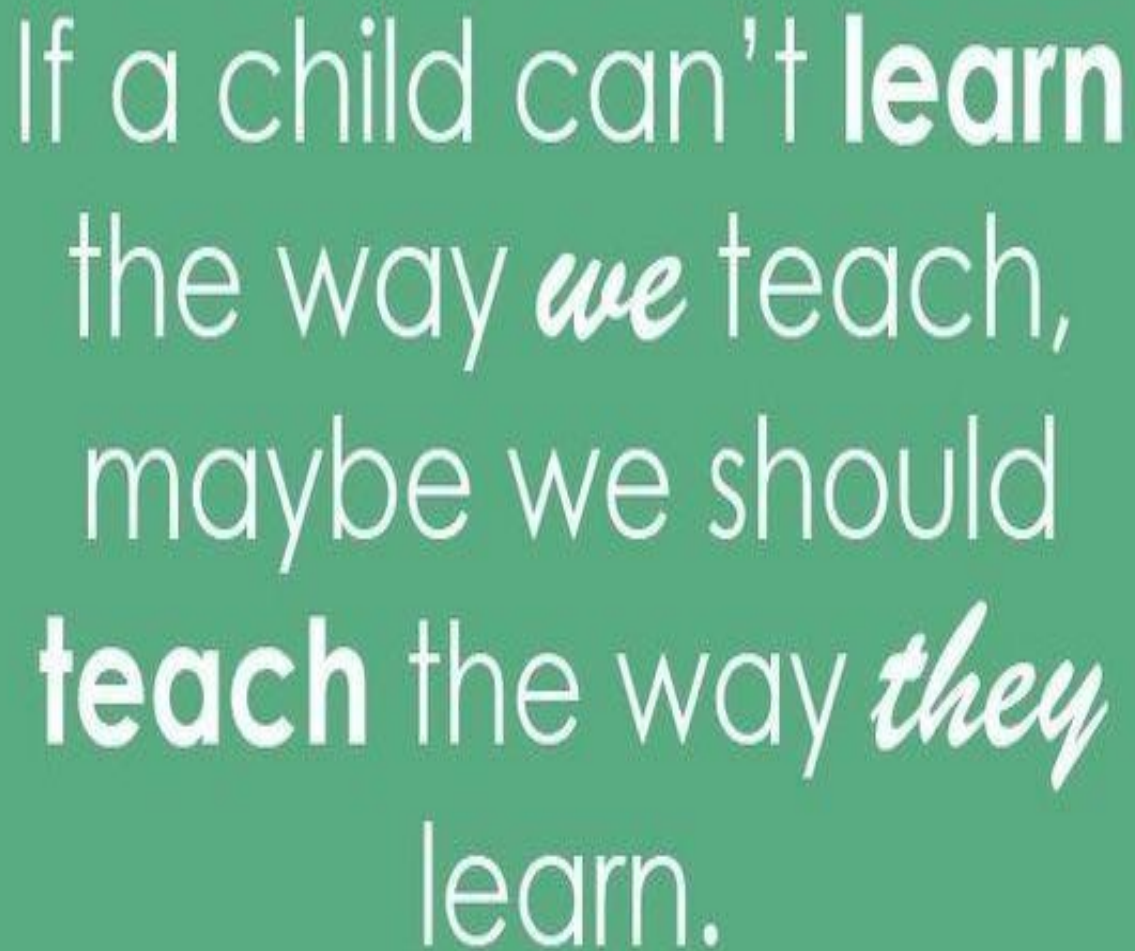
Kudos!



WHO IS THE MOST AWESOME PERSON TODAY?



Quote of the Month



If a child can't **learn**
the way *we* teach,
maybe we should
teach the way *they*
learn.

Classroom *Hacks*

Differentiated Instruction

Differentiated instruction enables teachers to accommodate the various learning needs of a group and provide individualized instruction. To differentiate instruction, teachers need to understand the different needs of their students. This knowledge can be used to develop customized curriculum that is tailored to the knowledge of the students and presented in a format that is most appropriate for them to acquire that knowledge.

Differentiated Instruction Strategies in the Classroom

On-the-spot Support

By using this technique, teachers can provide one-on-one assistance to students during lessons so that they are able to complete the same learning activities and keep up with their peers.

Offer Options

Another strategy that can be used is to create folders with graphic organizers, visual aids and sentence starters that can be easily tailored to a student's specific learning experience. This can also be used as a diagnostic tactic the teacher can monitor to see whether the student completes the modified assignment with ease or continues to struggle.

Independent Study

This strategy can be used with students who have mastered content and are ready for more challenging work. The teacher can help the student choose topics they are interested in and complete the assignments designed just for them.

Tiered Assignments

Tiered assignments are tasks that relate to each other but vary in difficulty. Depending on the skill level of the student, they learn the same material as the rest of the class in a more accessible way. Examples of this could be shorter texts, more group discussion or incorporating drawing instead of writing.

Adjusted Questions

When asking questions during class discussion, teachers can adjust based on the students' ability level.

Differentiated Rubrics

Differentiated rubrics can also be used to evaluate student performance. Teachers can identify which rubric elements individual students should focus on, then divide them into groups to work on those together.

[Examples of How to Differentiate Instruction in the Classroom](#)

CHECK THIS OUT!

A space to share websites that provide helpful information and ideas for your classrooms, students and families.

[The Library of Congress](#)

The LOC provides a wide range of educational materials and primary source documents including books, recordings, images, manuscripts, maps and newspapers.

[The Smithsonian Learning Lab](#)

The Smithsonian Learning Lab offers a diverse collection of resources to help students enhance their learning. These materials include recordings, digital images, texts, art and culture and more. The Lab also provides tools that students can use to upload, adapt, create and share educational resources with colleagues, teachers and parents. Students can use the Lab's search service to search for resources to use in their learning projects.

[Google Arts and Culture](#)

Google Arts and Culture provides students access to a huge repository of human knowledge stored in over 2000 cultural institutions from all over the world. Student can use the website to take virtual guided tours to different museums and exhibits in the world. They can also search for museums and exhibitions in their vicinity and explore their artwork.

[Applied Digital Skills](#)

Applied Digital Skills by Google for Education offers a wide variety of educational resources to help students develop the skills necessary for thriving in and out of school. The site embeds video-based lessons that students can access anytime anywhere for free. The way it works is simple: students sign in as learners, once in their dashboard they can start searching for lessons and begin their learning journey.

There are over 100 lessons organized into different collections. Students can search for lessons by audience (age, grade level), by digital tool (Apps Script, Docs, Drawings, etc.) or by topic (Art, Business, Science, Study Skills, etc.).



Upcoming Events

January

8th – Gabriel Inguito 🎂
9th – Staff Development Day
10th – Board Meeting @ RFK
16th – MLK Day (No School)
18th – Late Start
12th – Abigail Cortez 🎂
21st – Michele Lumabao 🎂
30th – Deanne Sanchez 🎂

February

1st – Late Start
13th – Lincoln's Birthday (No School)
15th – Late Start
21st – Board Meeting @ RFK
25th – Claudia Garcia 🎂



January

Friends, Family and Fun!

