

The LFDCS Letter for Parents

Winter 2021

Volume 1, Issue 2

2020 was a difficult year for many of us. The virus has affected everyone in some way. Many people have lost family members or friends; many people have lost their jobs or businesses; children cannot be in school or play with their friends. Families could not be together for the holidays. Let us hope for a better new year.

In my teacher newsletters, I include a quote and a poem. Sometimes they are for the teachers, other times they can be shared with students. Here I included a poem that goes along with the quote. Also, I include a word/ definition so that all students can learn them at the same time. This year I am selecting words that relate to *The Leader in Me*, the book we use for social-emotional awareness and teaching. I hope you enjoy this winter newsletter! I wish you and your families all a happy, healthy new year.

I hope 2021 is a good one for you and your families. *Sue*

Feliz año nuevo
Happy New Year
Feliz ano novo
Bonne Année

Quote



WEARING
A MASK
IS THE
SIMPLEST
ACT OF
HUMAN
KINDNESS

Differentiated Instruction

Differentiated Instruction is a term that educators use all the time. It means that a standard (the content) can be taught differently to different levels or needs of students. All teachers use differentiated instruction to some degree. Why? When a concept or task is too hard, students become anxious and blame themselves. When a concept or task is too easy, students can get restless and bored. They may even neglect their work because it does not seem to matter when the work is too easy.

Differentiation is: ♦ having high expectations for all students; ♦ adjusting the content or task as needed; ♦ assigning activities geared to different learning styles, interests, and levels of thinking; ♦ providing students with choices of what and how to do something; ♦ changing groupings based on student needs; ♦ goals that focus on continuous progress; ♦ assessing student growth before, during, and/or after the lesson; ♦ providing experiences which extend, replace, or supplement the curriculum.

To differentiate, first teachers need to know their students and the standards for that grade level very deeply. You have to understand something very deeply before you can adjust it.

Differentiation could include: ♦ giving a student more time; ♦ reviewing the lesson in a small group; ♦ having reading materials at the student's reading level instead of the grade level of the text; ♦ providing fewer problems or an example to use; ♦ providing a meaningful problem-solving task that requires deeper thinking; ♦ requiring less homework or different homework; ♦ assigning a longer, more in-depth task.

I began my research into differentiating instruction as a young teacher because my own (first grade) daughter's way of learning was embedded in her focus on music. There was very little information about differentiated instruction at that time, but I realized that I must have children in my class who learned differently as well. I wanted to know how to make sure I was reaching them and came to see differentiating instruction as what I call "just good teaching."

some material adapted from readingrockets.org, a great website for parent

Susan Dion Earabino, Ed.D.

In the Meantime

It's difficult to show compliance.
Why do I need to wear a mask?
Let's listen to the proven science.
Facts will answer what you ask.

Why do I need to wear a mask?
We live today with a disease.
Facts will answer what you ask.
A mask will cover cough and sneeze.

We live today with a disease.
Covid spreads through water drops.
A mask will cover cough and sneeze.
When we wear masks, the spreading stops.

Covid spreads through water drops.
This virus flies through air unseen.
When we wear masks the spreading stops.
It will take time for a vaccine.

This virus flies through air unseen.
You can spread it without knowing.
It will take time for a vaccine.
In the meantime, Covid's growing.

We all live in community.
We do not have immunity.
Masks are our opportunity
to safely show our unity.

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