

**I am glad to see  
you!**



**Welcome High  
Ability Teachers!**

Please take a moment to settle in. We'll begin shortly.

# Our Journey So Far...

- ▣ **Opening Meeting** - Gifted vs Bright – General Characteristics of HA, CogAT, Program goals
- ▣ **November** - Bill of Rights, 5 Characteristics of HA Instruction (challenge, interest, acceleration, ability grouping, differentiation), Critical Thinking
- ▣ **January** – Student engagement (Higher Order Thinking, 20% time, Genius hour)



# Where are we NOW??...

## □ Learning Log **REFLECTION**

□ How is it going??? What have you taken on??? What are your personal next steps?

□ **daily challenge**

□ **independent work** in the area of interest

□ **acceleration** above grade level aims & grade level material

□ **ability grouping**, &

□ **differentiation**.



## □ **Table Sharing**

□ **Name, school, grade...**

□ Share briefly from your **written reflections**. Share any **artifacts of student work or lesson planning** that you have brought.



# This Afternoon's **Purpose**...

- ▣ This afternoon we are coming together to...
- ▣ **SUPPORT** one another in our attempts to challenge & engage our HIGH ABILITY learners
  - ▣ Discuss some important items of business
- ▣ **GROW IN UNDERSTANDING** of differentiated instruction
  - ▣ Sharing our practice: Genius Hour & Academic Brackets
  - ▣ Discussion of **DIFFERENTIATION – What & How**
  - ▣ Resources for you: *Byrdseed.com, myON.com*

# Working Agreements for our time together...

- ◆ Listen fully and reflectively.
- ◆ Practice forming new habits of mind.
- ◆ Hold experiences and revelations of others with care.
- ◆ Challenge the limits of your potential.
- ◆ Monitor your personal technology.
- ◆ Be responsible for your impact on the room.
- ◆ Have **FUN!**



# MARCH BUSINESS... 😊

- HA **Student Lists**

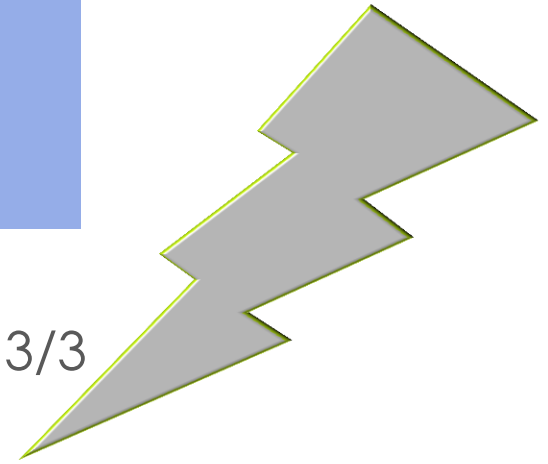
- Principals sent lists (spreadsheet form) 3/3
- Parent letters went out 3/10

- HA **MINI-UNITS** - ready for check out...

- **Teachers' editions** for each school
- Ready for check out once you've looked over the TE's (after spring break?...)

- HA **CHALLENGES** & Enrichment

- Eagle Challenge
- Riddles Mini-Challenge



# Sharing our **Practice**...

- **Genius Hour...**

- Holly Swartz

- **Academic Brackets...**

- Shayla Blaschko

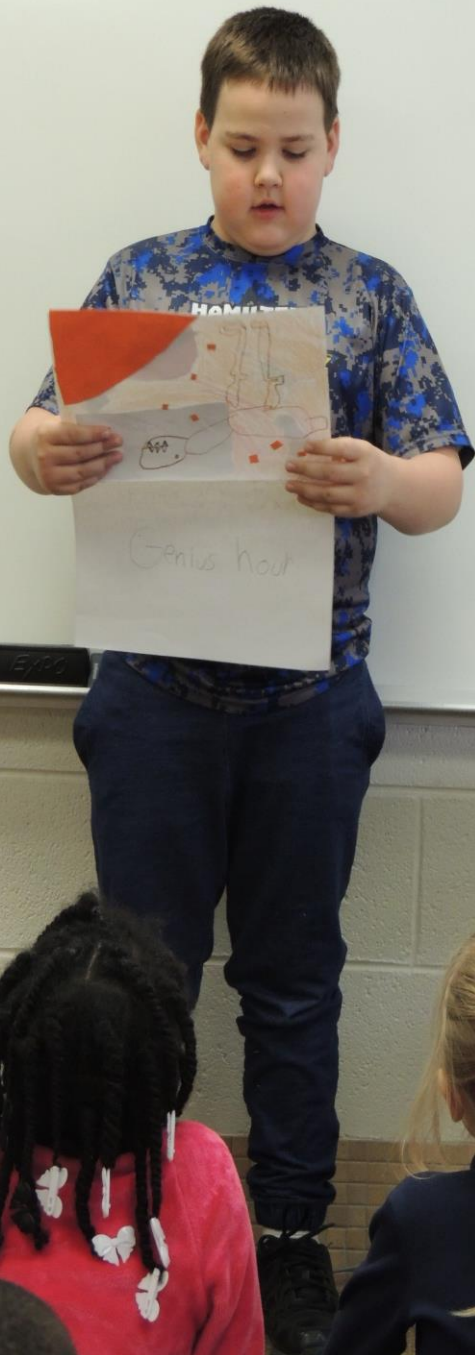
- Any others?????

# Holly Swartz's genius Hour project...





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Dear  
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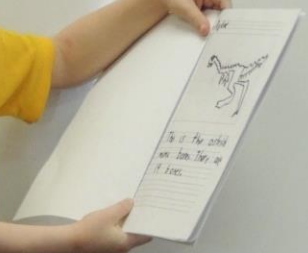
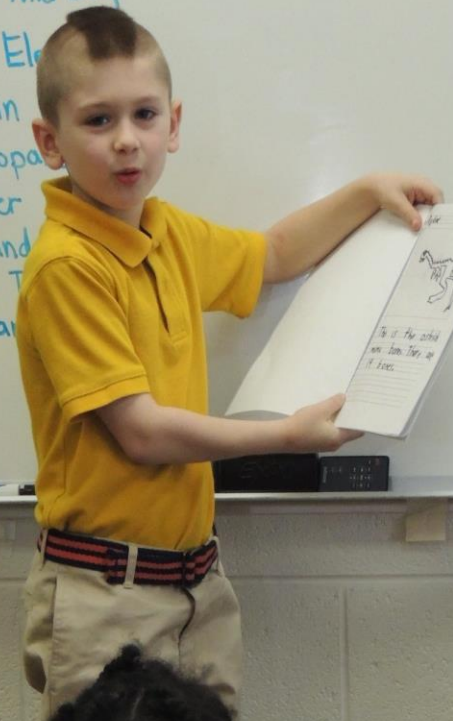
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angered animals  
 chimpanzee  
 rhinoceros  
 bear  
 wild dog  
 elephant  
 gorilla  
 leopard  
 panda  
 tiger  
 ramus



Animals

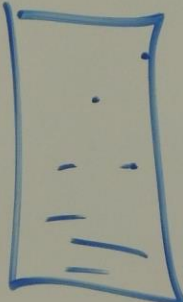
- 2  
 8
- Chimpanzee
  - Black Rhinoceros
  - Polar Bear
  - African Wild Dog
  - African Elephant
  - Mountain
  - Snow Leopard
  - Sea Otter
  - Giant Panda
  - Siberian Tiger
  - Hippopotamus



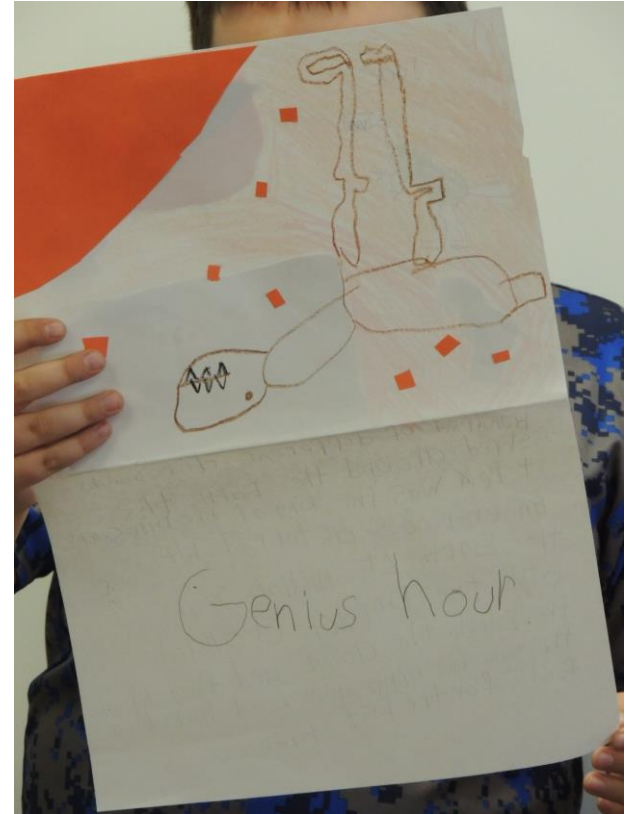




1. Pick
2. Research
3. Make habitats  
put animals
4. Persuasive  
Report

5.  poster  
Saving  
animal

y = i only vowel!



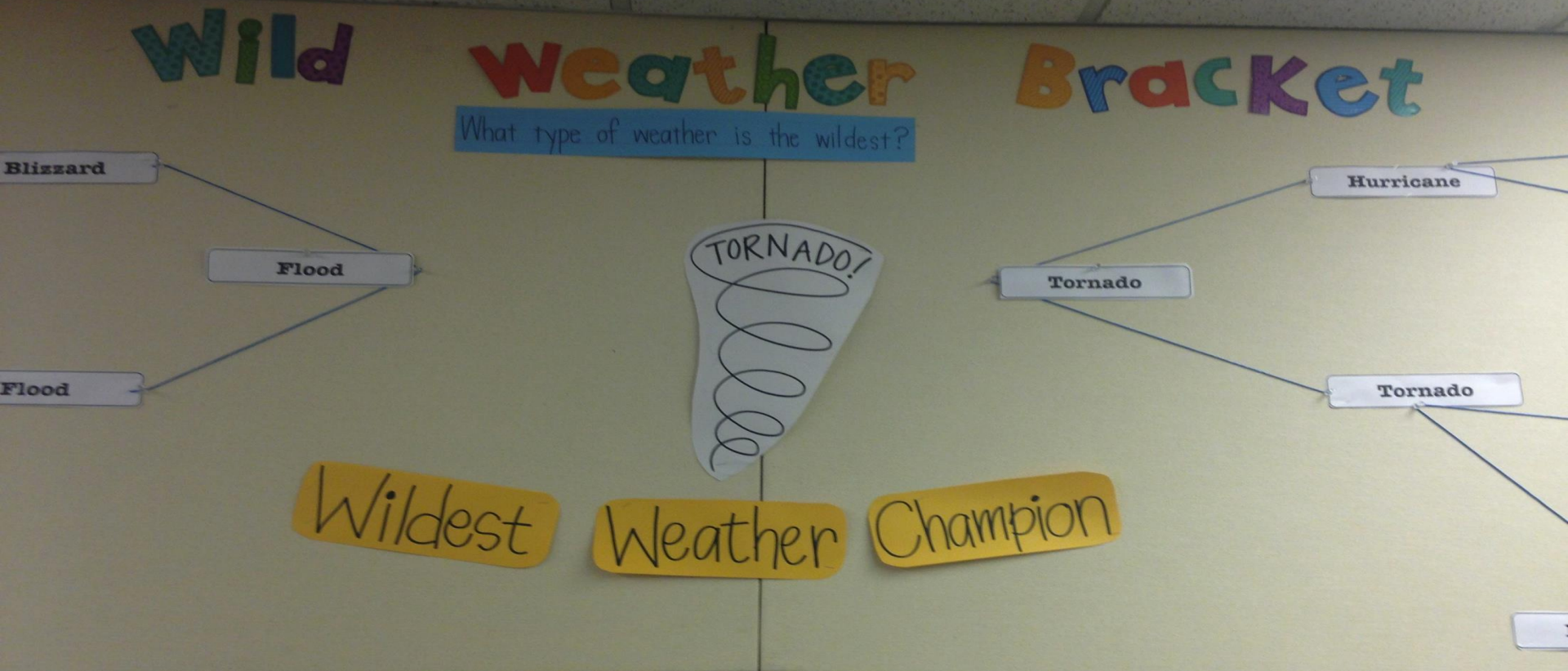


# Academic Brackets

– in practice...

- = Exciting way to get ongoing research related to your theme going in your classroom
- **Benefits:** no loser topics assigned to one child, kids learn something about many topics, enthusiasm runs HIGH!!
- **Week 1** – Create the bracket competitions matching 8 strongest & weakest entries (no putting Washington & Jefferson together right away)
  - All kids research all – in a very QUICK way... & form an opinion for voting
- **Week 2** – the brackets get tighter – 4 remain - you may have pairs or small group research in a slightly more in depth way and then present & then vote
- **Week 3** – 2 finalists are left – the research is much more in-depth!!!  
**This week ends in a vote!**

# Shayla's Brackets...



Locker name

Locker name

Locker name

Locker name

Locker name

Locker name

Locker name

Locker name



Thunderstorm

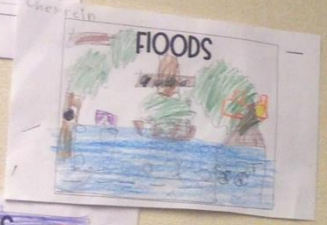


Blizzard



Blizzard

Flood



Flood

Flood



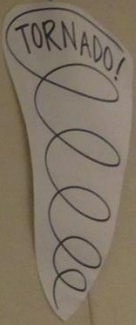
Hail

Wild

Weather

What type of weather is the wildest?

Brace



Tornado

Wildest

Weather

Champion



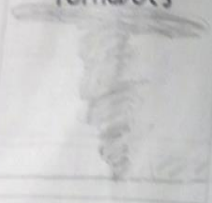


hold on to the  
chair or desk to protect your self.

You need to go away from  
the tornado.  
Do not bring toys.

Go to a windowless

**TORNADOES**



Page 1

Fun fact - the cloud that forms  
over tornadoes in the wall filled  
with rain water in bangs look

**TORNADOES**



Page 1

Fun fact -  
A tornado is a fast moving  
violent winds that can

Fog: A tornado that  
**OCCURS** over water is  
often called a water spout

**TORNADOES**



Page 1

**TORNADOES**

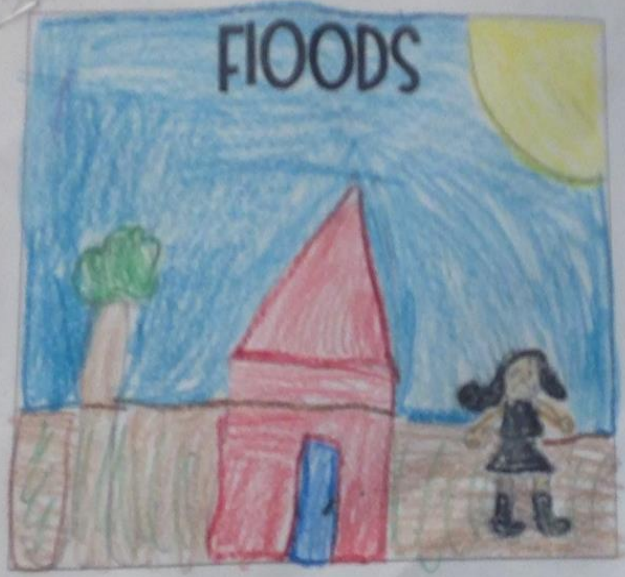


Page 1

Fun fact -  
Tornadoes are caused  
by the

Tornadoes are small spirals of air

Jakir



Fact:

Floods can damage bridges

roads and other transport



A floods is the

submerging of normally  
dry land by an overflow  
of water.

Cherrein





Info

Fact: Flood occ

Fact: River flooding is the most common type of flood event.

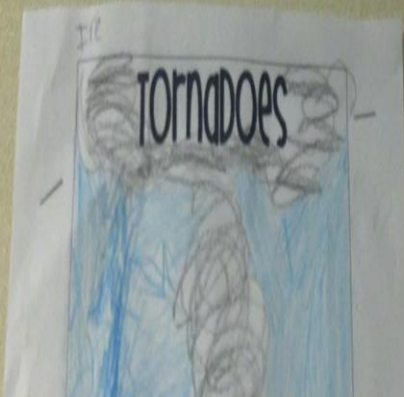
go to the basement.

Need food and water.

hold on to the  
table or desk to bridle your self.

You need to go away from the tornado. Do not bring toys.

Go to a windowless room.



Fact: A tornado

# Grade 7 – Plagued by Disease

## Biggest Threats...

Ebola			
Flu			
Zika			
Common Cold			
Heart disease			
Obesity			
Cancer			
Diabetes			

# Grade 2 – Let's Make a Difference (week 3)

## Our Heroes

Doctor

US Marine

Firefighter

Nurse

Police Officer

Baseball  
coach

Teacher

Water rescue  
diver

# Grade 3 – Take Action (week 5)

## Energy

Wind

Nuclear

Solar

Oil

Coal

Hydropower

Electric

Natural gas

# Grade 4 – Figure It Out (week 3)

## Inventions

Light bulb

Bicycle

Penicillin

Airplane

Steam Engine

Refrigerator

Concrete

telephone

# 2 Resources for you to explore...

 [Brydseed.com](http://Brydseed.com)

 [myON.com](http://myON.com)

*Byrdseed*

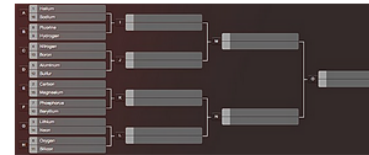
acade

About Speaking The Best Of ByrdseedTV The Shop

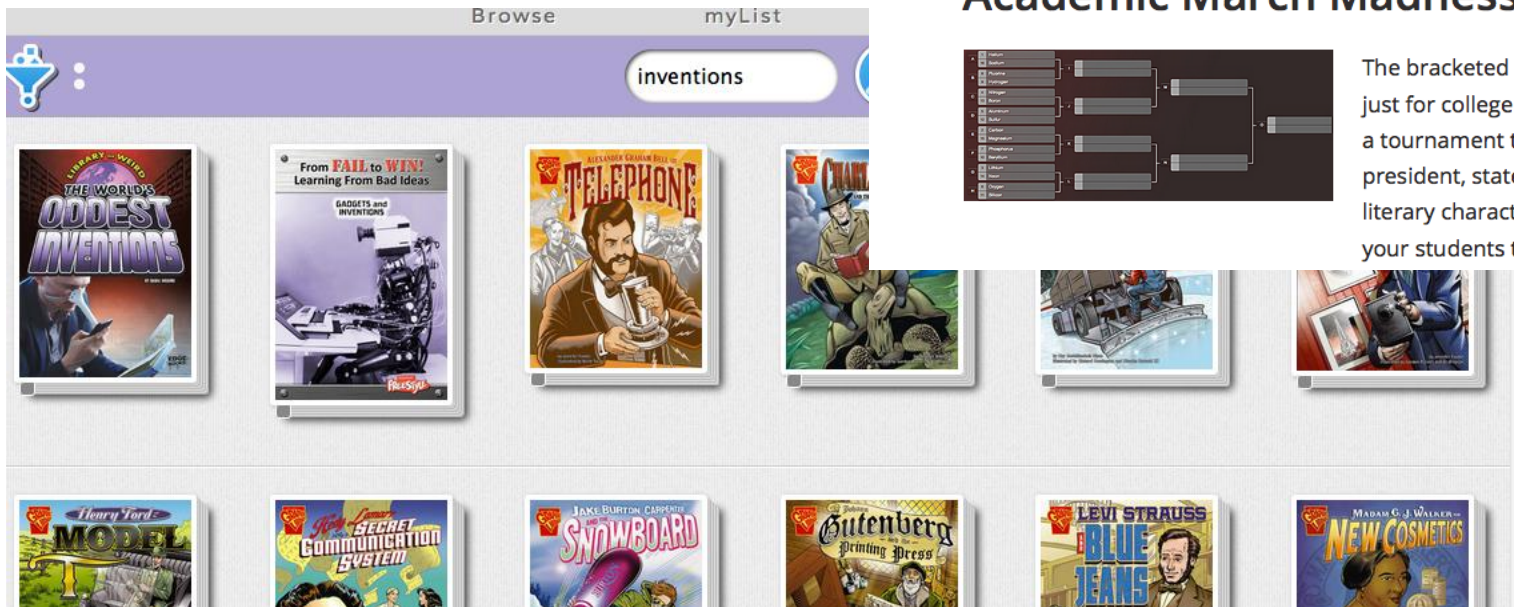
Social Emotional Math Language Arts Creativity Parent Resources

## Search Results for: academic brackets

### Academic March Madness!



The bracketed tournament isn't just for college basketball. Set up a tournament to determine best president, state, element, or literary character and challenge your students to make



Browse myList inventions

LIBRARY - WIND THE WORLD'S ODDDEST INVENTIONS

From FAIL to WIN! Learning From Bad Ideas GADGETS AND INVENTIONS

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL THE TELEPHONE

CHINA

Henry Ford MODEL

Madame T. T. SECRET Communication SYSTEM

JAKE BURTON CARPENTER SNOWBOARD

Gutenberg Printing Press

LEVI STRAUSS BLUE JEANS

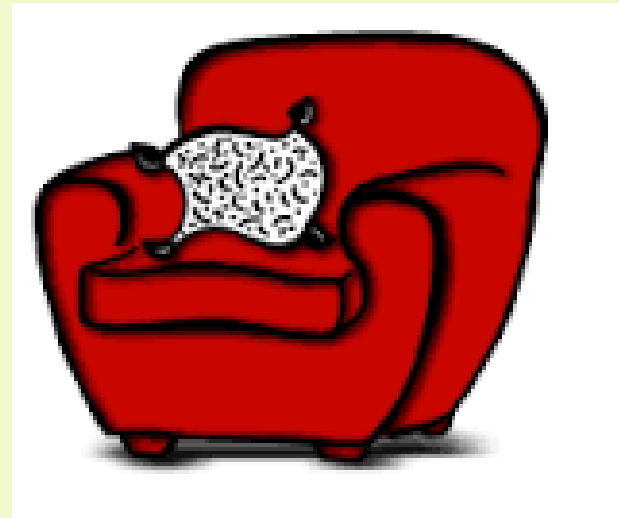
MADAM C. J. WALKER NEW COSMETICS




# Cozy Classes for HA Students...

## □ Jigsaw... 10 Ways to Make your Class Cozier for Gifted Students!

- Introversion
- Intuition
- Beware the 100%
- Worry Reducers
- Climb Bloom's
- Spelling & Vocabulary
- Math Battles
- Give Choice
- Ongoing, Interest-based Projects
- Expect the Unexpected



At its most basic level, differentiating instruction means “**SHAKING UP**” what goes on in the classroom so that students have **multiple options for ...**



1. **taking in** information (**what** information S receive & **how** - **CONTENT**),
2. **making sense** of ideas (how S **practice** & **work with** information - **PROCESS**),
3. & **expressing** what they learn (how S show what they've learned - **PRODUCT**).

**WHAT** we differentiate –  
**CONTENT, PROCESS, & PRODUCT**

# HOW we differentiate...

**READINESS** – NOT ability!!! = a student's entry point for the knowledge, understanding, & skills you are shooting for → **GROWTH!!!!**  
(Vygotsky)

**INTEREST** = a learner's affinity, curiosity, or passion for a topic or skill → **MOTIVATION!!!!**  
(Csikszentmihalyi)

**LEARNING PROFILE** = the ways in which a learner learns, shaped by intelligence preference (Gardner's), gender, culture, learning style → **EFFICIENCY!!!!** (Gardner)

# Best practice (nothing fancy) DI examples...

## 1. Writers' Workshop (content, readiness & interest differentiation)

- **Pretesting** - to create groups of students
- **Whole group mini-lessons** for the central ideas (genre characteristics & skills such as spelling & grammar)
- **By-the-side teaching based upon READINESS** (in conferences & small group meetings); 1 group works on **IDEAS** (just getting lots on the page, realizing that fluency must come first). Another group works on **ORGANIZATION** (putting their ideas in good order, BME). Other students work on **STYLE** (word choice, sentence variety, & voice).
- **Interest** is built through topic choice

## 2. Guided Reading (content & readiness differentiation)

- **Pretesting** – to create small groups
- **Whole group mini-lessons** for the central ideas (genre characteristics & skills such as asking & answering questions, main idea detail, drawing conclusions)
- **Small group teaching** to target unique deficit areas (decoding issues, word study practice, fluency)

# Extended Learning Opportunity...



- Finish the Tomlinson book
- Evaluate your commitment to DI – especially to those DI strategies that are required of all: **writers' workshop & guided reading**
- Continue **DIFFERENTIATING** your instruction – look over packets on Tiering, Tri-mind, Learning Contracts, & Entry Points.
- Continue adding **CHALLENGE**, and adding **INTEREST & CHOICE**
- Consider implementing either **Genius Hour** or **Academic Brackets** between now and May – come with stories to tell and images!!!

Every child is entitled to the promise of a teacher's optimism, enthusiasm, time, and energy, a teacher who will do everything possible, every day, to help students realize their potential.

# Thank you!



For your time & attention this  
afternoon  
&  
for the dedication you bring  
to your work each and every  
day.

See you in May!