

# School Report

---

27 February 2019

## Teacher Convention Highlights

My focus for this year's convention as Learning Support Facilitator was differentiated instruction--how teachers respond to variance among learners in the classroom.

Teachers can differentiate at least four classroom elements based on student readiness, interest, or learning profile:

- Content - what the student needs to learn or how the student will get access to the information;
- Process - activities in which the student engages in order to make sense of or master the content;
- Products - culminating projects that ask the student to rehearse, apply, and extend what he or she has learned in a unit; and
- Learning environment - the way the classroom works and feels.

### Using Best Practices to Teach Writing in the Elementary Classroom

Writing is a complex task requiring many skills. The complexity of the task can be overwhelming for many students and especially those who struggle with learning disorders, executive function challenges and anxiety. Emerging research supports structured and explicit writing instruction to help all students develop effective writing skills. In this session, the speaker will outline a six-step structured writing process that can be used in elementary classrooms to teach students to write across the curriculum. The speaker will also walk participants through the creation of a detailed and differentiated lesson plan. This structured writing procedure helps students develop the foundational thinking and writing skills needed to become successful writers. It addresses metacognitive strategies and the four best practices for teaching elementary education highlighted by a meta-analysis conducted by the Institute of Education Sciences (2012)

### Literacy Fun-dice-mentals

Participants will learn a variety of literacy games and activities they can use with their Grade 4 to 6 students to help them with their vocabulary development, reading, spelling and proper use of grammar. Cards, dice and letter tiles will be used as manipulatives for these hands-on activities. Participants will come away from this workshop with skills, knowledge and expertise necessary to implement the games and activities back at their school site, quickly and easily. Great session for classroom teachers (especially those with ESL students) as well as resource and special education teachers. Student work samples will be shared and a handout will also be provided. Come prepared to play and learn some literacy games and learn why recent brain research indicates games aren't just a good learning strategy, but the most efficient learning strategy.

### Fraction Action Hands-on Games

Do your students need a boost in understanding fractions? Help them stay focused on the link between fractions, decimals, and percents. Teach them the "fact"ors that help make up the pieces to a whole. Learn how to teach and play educational and differentiated games that build confidence. See how to help students at

all levels learn the basics to increase fraction sense. Student samples, game boards and journal ideas will be shared. Come prepared to play!

### Multisensory Instruction Matters

How do you work with the students who are at risk of, or diagnosed with a reading or writing learning disability? Your struggling reader and speller has had extensive phonological awareness intervention and yet is still not progressing very quickly in his/her reading and spelling skills. Extensive research shows that an explicit, systematic, and simultaneous multisensory reading program can be an effective approach for these students. Learn the basics of what this could look like in your guided reading sessions or even in a whole class mini lesson. Following the long standing renowned and heavily researched Orton-Gillingham approach you will be introduced to how to help make a guided reading session work for your struggling students as well as compliment your own teaching strategies in the classroom. You will learn how to connect your students' visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning pathways while learning useful word patterns and spelling generalizations. The program places an emphasis on phonemic skills while maintaining the phonological awareness basics, fluency, and comprehension.

### Mathcation- Take a Vacation from the Same Old Math Routine

Learn how to play fun, educational and differentiated games to bring math back to life in your junior high classroom. Help students unlock their potential and get rid of math anxiety by using regular cards and dice to teach math fluency, fractions, order of operations, algebraic concepts, analytical thinking and much more. Student samples, game boards will be shared so you can get started first thing Monday morning. Come prepared to play!

### Awakening Wonder Through Educational Escape Rooms

Find new ways to engage your students through educational escape room design. This presentation explores a new way to engage students through maker education, hands-on learning and curriculum-based escape room puzzle design. Session attendees will learn the Mobile Escape process that helps students take learning into their own hands, and provides them the environment to acknowledge one other's unique gifts and abilities. The process that we will review allows students to engage in teamwork and problem solving to create their very own educational escape room. Participants will explore a unique curriculum-based puzzle called "Time Machine", created by Mobile Escape, as well as the benefits of the inquiry-based prototyping process. Attendees will leave the session with a new appreciation for joy, wonder and curiosity, as well as a process framework they can implement in their classroom.