Differentiation Strategies for High-End Learners: A Response to Instruction
Curriculum Compacting: Pre-assessment

- What is curriculum compacting?
  - Streamlining the curriculum so that students who can demonstrate mastery of material can work on alternate assignments in their area/s of interest.
When is curriculum compacting appropriate?
- d. Whenever students demonstrate mastery of grade level material.
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How can I find out which students have already mastered material to be taught?

- By Pre-assessing
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Who should be allowed to participate in pre-assessment and curriculum compacting?

a. ANY STUDENT WHO REQUESTS IT!
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Why is curriculum compacting important?

- Student engagement
- Provides appropriate challenge through acceleration and/or added depth and complexity
- Promotes academic excellence for all students
- Frees time for teachers to spend with students who need additional direct instruction.
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Fascinating Facts

- Gifted students may enter your class knowing up to 50-60% of the material to be taught in their area/s of giftedness.
- Gifted students learn new material with an average of 1-3 repetitions compared to the average student who may need up to 15 repetitions.
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- Steps in curriculum compacting
  - Decide the main objectives of the chapter/unit to be taught.
  - Pre-asses the students for mastery
  - Document student mastery and weaknesses
  - Provide opportunities for alternate assignments in the student’s interest area to replace the “regular” work for mastered objectives.
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1. Decide on the big idea and major objectives of the chapter/unit
   - ALCOS
   - ARMT
   - Text
   - Pacing Guide
   - Teacher generated
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2. Pre-assess

- End of chapter or unit test
- Free write
- Concept map (http://www.inspiration.com/Freetrial)
- Mind map
- Short conference
- Authentic assessment with teacher checklist
- Graphic organizer
- Concept illustration
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- Decide what constitutes mastery
  - 85% - 90% over the whole unit?
  - Student joins the class for instruction in non-mastered objectives?
  - Teacher can decide if students needs to take post-test to assure mastery in areas of weakness.
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4. Document
   - Strengths
   - Weaknesses
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- WHAT ABOUT GRADES?
  - Student earns an “A” every day the class works on skills mastered on the pre-test.
  - Student joins class for lessons not mastered on pre-test and earns a grade for that day.
  - Student may take post-test if desired to earn “A” for the unit.
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4. Provide alternate activities
   - Incorporate student interest
   - Allow student choice
   - Establish clear rules for student conduct while working on alternate activities
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- Alternate Activities should provide for special needs of gifted students
- Depth
- Complexity
- Acceleration
- Opportunities to express creativity
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- Bloom’s Taxonomy

- Synthesis
- Evaluation
- Analysis
- Application
- Comprehension
- Knowledge
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- Ideas for alternative activities
  - Orbital Studies
  - Anchor Activities
  - Independent Study
  - Web Quest (http://webquest.org)
  - Work at Independent Learning Centers
  - Student Choice (Teacher approved!)
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- Where is the best place to start with curriculum compacting?
  - Skills based subjects such as
    - Spelling
    - Math
    - Language Arts (Grammar, Punctuation)
    - Map Skills
    - Geography
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- **Non-negotiables**
  - Students who compact out will not be required to complete "regular" work before undertaking activity of choice.
  - Alternative work will not be more of the same (MOTS).
  - Teacher must establish rules of conduct while students engage in alternative work.
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- How do I grade “alternative” assignments?
  - Rubrics ([http://www.rubistar.com](http://www.rubistar.com))
  - Authentic audience
  - Authentic product
  - Student Reflection
What are YOUR ideas for how to include curriculum compacting in your classroom?
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- Upload your lesson plan to the Moodle Class website.
- Teach the lesson
- Follow-Up:
  - Webinar to discuss the effectiveness of the lesson and how to continue improvement
  - WIKI to write a minimum of four paragraphs reflecting on the effectiveness of the lesson and how to continue improvement. In addition, post feedback to two other teacher postings.
Bibliography


Bibliography