

DIFFERENTIATION TRAINING AT MILLBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

For the past several years there has been a concerted effort on the part of the district to give our teachers as much training in differentiation as time and money permits. The district provides monetary support and encouragement to teachers that make attendance to workshops outside the district very easy. We have made good use of the Teacher Staff Development days as well. Last year, several staff development activities occurred that addressed various aspects of differentiation both in the area of Response to Intervention (RtI) and the regular classroom.

Recently, Mrs. Jennie Winters, the Math and Science Coordinator from the Lake County Regional Office of Education (ROE) visited Millburn Central School. She and another math specialist observed the students in two of the classroom: Mrs. Sarah Glade (1st) and Ms. Leslie Dreyer (4th). During this time she videotaped both teachers and students as they participated in a differentiating activity called Guided Math. She also had the pleasure of working with a group of students in each classroom. She was effusive in her praise and compliments concerning both the teachers and the students. She shared many compliments but I will paraphrase the most important ones here: ***We were amazed at how effortless the teachers worked with the students and managed the groups, activities, and materials. The teachers not only moved between groups, but also worked for longer periods with specific students in varying ability groups. It was differentiation at its finest.***

Mrs. Winters began using these videotapes March 15 in her presentations to administrators and teachers from all over Lake County. The topic of the workshop was *Common Core Standard in Math and ELA for Grades 3-5*. The videos are examples of best practices in differentiating in the math classroom in the 21st Century.

Please glance at the list that follows to see the variety of opportunities afforded the teachers in SY 2009-2010:

- Differentiation using the current reading resources in grades K-5
- Several math and reading technology workshops to be used as support of differentiation in the classroom
- Multiple trainings using SMART Board technology in the classroom
- Intensive training in guided reading and differentiation in grades 3-5 from Gretchen Courtney & Associates
- Participation in the Lake County Winter Literacy Conference at Woodland District at which time not only were teachers offered an opportunity to attend, but one of our teachers, Mrs. Sarah Glade, presented
- Training in differentiation in the regular class room in reading and math Tier 1 and Tier 2 activities
- *Effective Ways to Use MAP Data to Differentiation in Reading Classroom Part I* by Kathleen Dawson

We have again sponsored several workshops and provided learning opportunities to support RtI (and differentiation) during the SY2010-2011.

- *Differentiation: Kick It Up a Notch* with Dr. Pam DePinto
- *Technology in the 21st Century: Differentiation in the Digital Age*
- Intensive training in math differentiation using assessments and resources (Gr. K-3) from *Assessing Math Concepts* by Kathy Richardson
- *Effective Ways to Use MAP Data to Differentiation in the Reading Classroom Part 2*

- *Numbers World* Staff Development (differentiation of instruction in Special Education and RtI)
- *Using MAP Growth Data and Setting Goals in the Classroom*
- *Math Facts Fixer* Workshops Grades K-5
- *Non-Fiction in the Content Areas of Social Studies and Science* (Gr. 6-8) 3 Sessions
- Attendance at the Joint Institute of North Lake County where several workshops on differentiation were offered
- Attendance at the Lake County Winter Literacy Conference

The 2010-2011 year is not over yet. Should teachers choose to do so, they may still sign up and attend several workshops on differentiation being offered by the Regional Office of Education. We will also be meeting in teams to discuss differentiation in Math and Reading (Gr. K-8) during the spring.