

TAG Information Session

Spring 2008

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Tonight's Topics

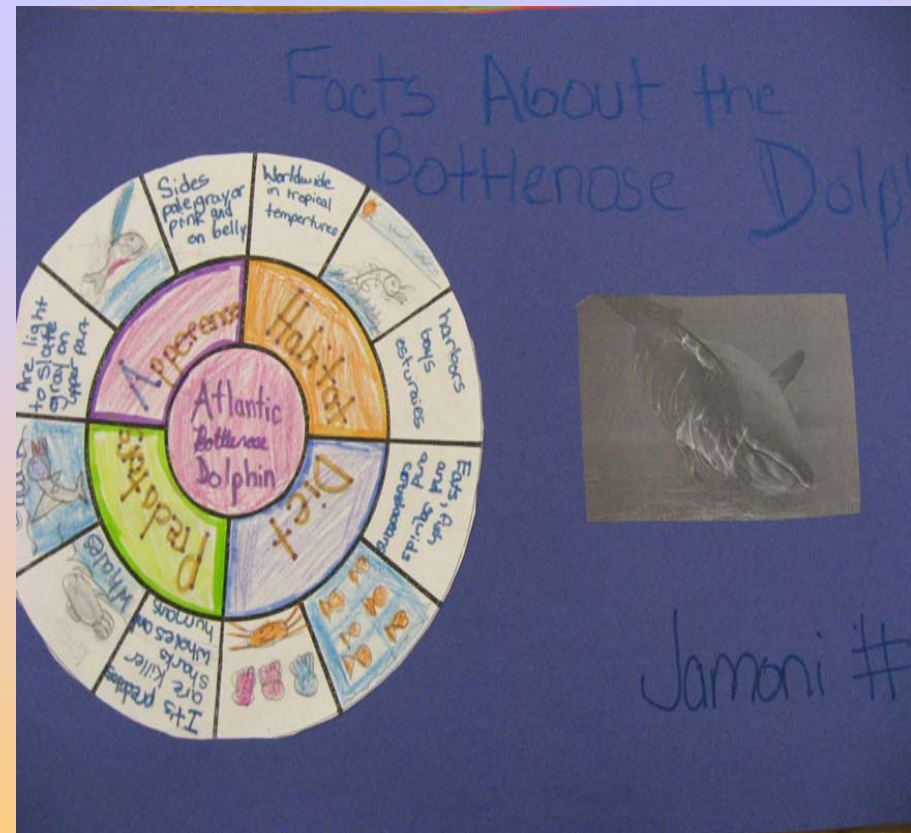


- *What are we doing* at Greenbelt Elementary to meet the needs of our gifted students?
- *What are our plans* for the next 18-24 months regarding TAG at GES?
- Parent resources.

TAG at GES

Programs for gifted learners must provide:

- Flexible grouping
- High-Quality Curriculum
- Teachers with specialized education*
- Intellectual peer interaction



Cluster Grouping



Cluster Grouping Model

Definition: *A group of gifted identified students is clustered into mixed ability classroom with a teacher who is trained to differentiate for gifted students.*

Why Cluster Group?

Gifted Students:

- Need to spend time learning with others of like ability to experience challenge and make academic progress.
- Better understand their learning differences when they are with peers.

Teachers are more likely to differentiate curriculum when there is a group of gifted students.

High-Quality Curriculum

- Content Objectives – mandated by the Voluntary State Curriculum
- Assessments: Respectful of students' and teachers time? Motivating?
- Teaching activities: Varied strategies? Promote student engagement? active vs. passive learner

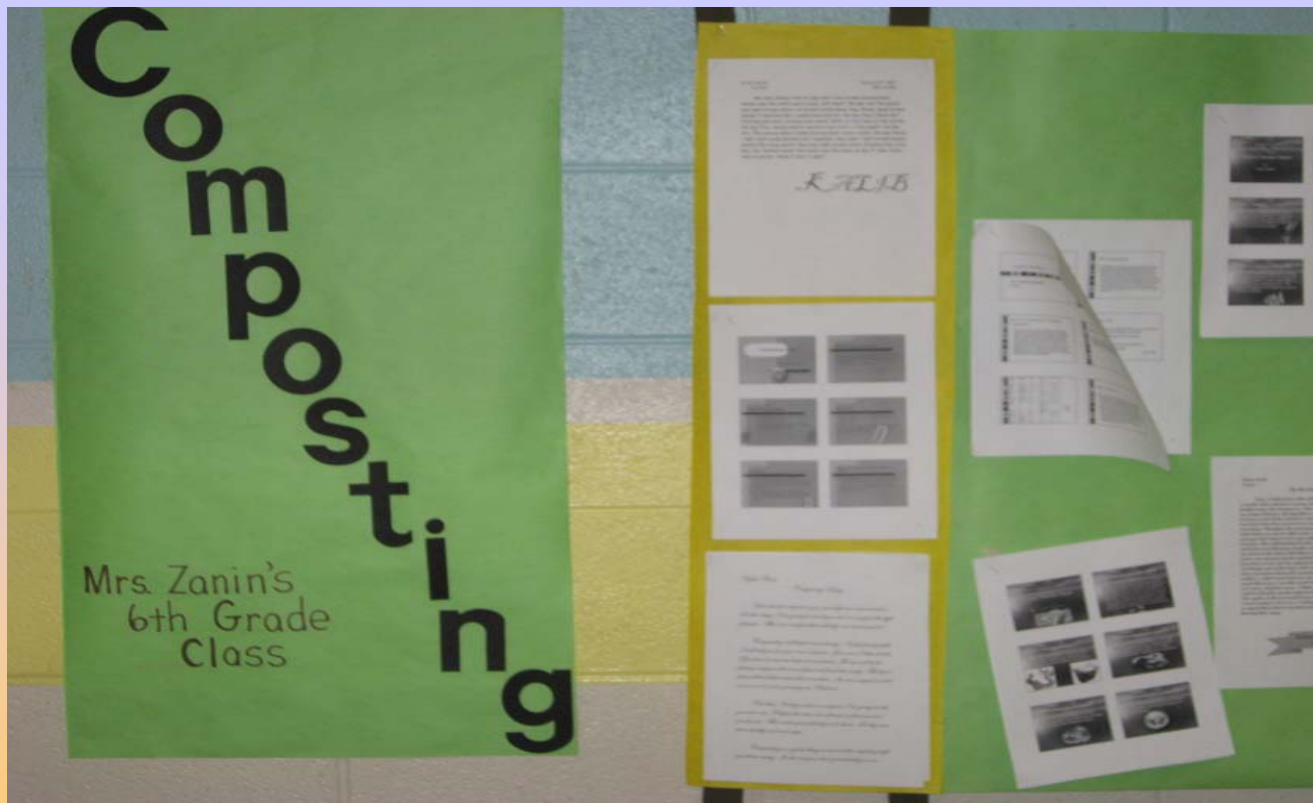
High-Quality Curriculum

- Learning activities: Motivating? Promote student thinking and transfer?
Appropriately challenging for all levels of students?
- Products: Authentic to the discipline?
Motivating? Can they be used to assess student learning?

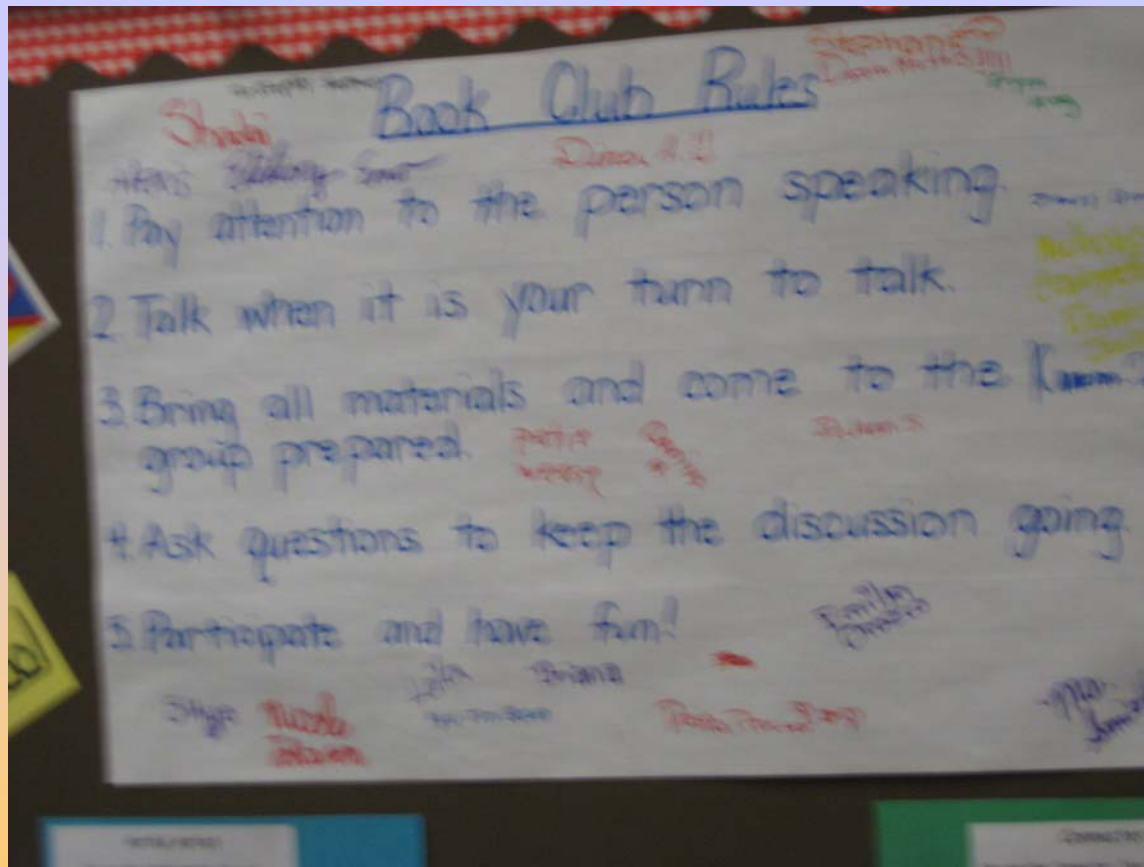
High-Quality Curriculum

- Differentiation – curriculum modifications made by the teacher to accommodate students' varied levels of prior knowledge, cognitive skills, learning styles and interests. Curriculum is differentiated by content, product, and/or process.
- What we do schoolwide:
 - Follow County Curriculum/Voluntary State Curriculum
 - Accelerated Reader
 - First in Math
 - Open-ended questioning

Products:
Authentic-Motivating-Used to Assess Learning



Learning Activities: Motivating-Promote Student Thinking- Appropriately Challenging



Teachers' Examples of High-Quality Curriculum

Early Childhood

- Advanced readers are grouped across classes for reading and writing activities
- Differentiated Learning Centers
- Making Connections (reading/writing)
- Accelerated Reader
- Small group instruction

More examples (these lists are not all inclusive- and of course some items are done at many grade levels)

2nd Grade

- Projects in class (ex. Flat Stanley)
- Challenge spelling lists
- Accelerated Math
- Enrichment Math Groups
- Math Facts Challenge
- Book Club
- Books of Thought – in science

More examples...

3rd Grade

- Jacob's Ladder
- Jr. Great Books
- Science Labs
- Nature Center
- Math discussions and explorations
- Math enrichment
- Role playing in social studies

More examples...

4th Grade

- Plays
- Guest speakers
- Book reports
- Units of study: poetry
- Geography Bee
- Science experiments
- Projects as assessments

More examples...

5th Grade

- Book Clubs/Literature Circles
- Enrichment projects and activities (math)
- Learning Centers
- Units of study: poetry, Underground Railroad
- Student choice in projects (tic-tac-toe)

More examples...

6th Grade

- Accelerated curriculum – reading and math
- Student led Book Clubs (Monster, Flipped, Artemis Fowl)
- Science Labs (composting)
- Student choice in projects (tic-tac-toe)
- Technology in learning: Power Point/Excel
- Units of study – science, social studies, language arts
- Vocabulary study related to subject area and units of study

The kids say...

I asked the sixth grade TAG students what they like and what they wish and here's what they said...

- I like doing projects and experiments
- I like learning new vocabulary
- I like when I get to work with my friends
- I wish we could have TAG meetings
- I wish we had more independent reading time

The kids say...

- I wish that some people (parents) would not compare your grades with your cousins and siblings because that makes you feel like you're not smart.
- I wish that there were no homework (naturally) and more field trips.

Intellectual Peer Interaction

- TAG Pullout has some really good aspects, but the size of our TAG population makes it difficult to offer pull-out services. We are considering options for giving students with like-interests the opportunity to work together on projects (Destination Imagination etc.)
- This is an area we'd like to work toward improving.

Intellectual Peer Interaction

- Cluster Grouping at all grade levels
- After School Clubs
 - ART
 - Spanish
 - It's Municipal Government
 - Board Games
 - Chorus

Plans for the Future

- It is our goal to design, create, and implement high quality curriculum and programs that encourage TAG students and their families to want to remain at GES.
- We plan to build upon our TAG capacity and increase our TAG student population (identified) by at least 10% per year in grades 2nd-6th.

Plans for the Future

- Two TAG activities a year that allow for more peer interaction: Destination Imagination and Howard B. Owens Science Center.
- Continue to train teachers so that 100% of the staff has had at least one training opportunity a year.
- Purchase additional resources: Junior Great Books, Accelerated Reader books (use TAG office as a resource)
- Cluster Group students according to the guidelines published by the TAG office (research based).
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Above and Beyond

- Recognition 2007-2008
 - Kimberly Seidel and Beth Novick, *The Maryland State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education*
 - Mary Mullennix and Stephanie Katz – writing gifted curriculum to be use Countywide for second grade.

Resources for Parents

- Lots of information about many topics related to gifted people young and old: www.hoagiesgifted.org
- TAG programs in Prince Georges County: www.pgcps.org
 - They are Contextual Learning Environments
- Summer enrichment:
 - Maryland Summer Centers -
<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/giftedtalented/centers.htm>
 - Johns Hopkins Center for Talented and Gifted Youth
 - <http://cty.jhu.edu/>

All programs have deadlines for registration – contact them ASAP ☺