Differentiation in the Elementary Classroom



One Size Can Fit All:

Designing Content Area Lessons that are Accessible and Engaging for All

February 10th, 3:30 - 5:00

In many classrooms, students learn about a topic by reading books or listening to a book read aloud. This presents a challenge for children with language and reading delays, as well as for students who are visual or kinesthetic learners. Meanwhile the strong readers and auditory learners may acquire information but not be challenged to think deeply. This workshop will model lessons that are designed to simultaneously a) impart content-area information; b) allow everyone to participate on equal footing; and c) challenge all students to think critically. The lesson-design process itself will also be modeled and participants will be encouraged to think of applications for their own teaching.

Stretch to Fit: Differentiation without Ability Grouping

February 24th, 3:30 - 5:00

How can teachers teach in such a way as to reach the strugglers while challenging the experts? How can teachers create a classroom where all students get the help they need when they need it - and no one feels labeled? This workshop will encourage teachers to think creatively about opportunities for differentiation across subject areas - many of which are invisible to students. Topics include: ways to embed differentiation within a lesson or project; ways teachers can differentiate their presentation or expectations; differentiation of time on task; flexible grouping and mixed-ability groups. Occasions when ability grouping may be appropriate will be considered as well - along with how to present such groups to students. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on a lesson or project they are planning and consider how they can stretch it - or reshape it - to meet the needs of all their students.

Presenters: Steve Wilson and Katherine Sorel teach an ICT 3rd grade class at the Brooklyn New School/PS 146. Steve has been teaching at BNS for 22 years. He is also a ceramist and printmaker and incorporates his art background into his teaching. Katherine has been at BNS for 10 years. Prior to that she taught at Mary McDowell Center for Learning, a school for children with learning disabilities. In addition to classroom teaching, she has taught SETSS, reading intervention, and science.

REGISTER ONLINE

TRC@LIU-Brooklyn: 9 Hanover Place, 3rd Floor, between Fulton and Livingston - liu.trc@gmail.com - 718 780 6549

The TRC is funded by a generous grant from the Tietz Family Foundation.