Out-of-School Enrichment for High Potential Students: A Blueprint for Successful Programming

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Super Saturday

- Enrichment program for gifted and talented students in grades Pre-K through 8 (Feldhusen & Wyman, 1980)
- Classes are offered from 9:00 AM until noon on six Saturdays during the fall semester and six Saturdays during the spring semester
- All content at levels two or more grades above the students' actual grade level
- STEM disciplines and in arts and humanities
- High-quality instructors - certified teachers, graduate students, or doctoral students who attend a training session prior to teaching in the program

Courses

- Developed by coordinator
- Proposals from instructors
- Suggestions from students
- Descriptions are general – teachers have liberty to be creative
- Descriptions are written entice students

Courses

- Mini Medical School (Grades 5-6)

Courses

- Kitchen Chemistry (Grades 1-2)

Courses

- Knights and Castles (Grades 3-4)

Recruiting Teachers

- Teachers at your school and nearby schools
- Parents
- Contact departments at nearby university
- Members of community – librarians, doctors, businessman, retired teachers
- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Background check completed on all instructors and volunteers

Teacher Training

- Recognizing gifted characteristics
- Differentiation techniques
- Appropriate environment for gifted learners
  - Flexibility
  - Creativity
  - Open ended activities
  - Student-centered
  - Problem-based learning

Purdue Three Stage Model (Moon, Kolloff, Robinson, Dixon, & Feldhusen, 2009)

Stage I

- Master core content and skills through readings, lectures, speakers, learning centers
- Short-term teacher lead creative & critical thinking skills exercises
- Diagnostic-prescriptive instruction in specific skills

Stage II

- Inquiry activities related to the curriculum
- Strategies used: creative problem solving, problem-based learning, inquiry techniques, research methods, scientific method, inductive and deductive reasoning, syllogism, analysis of arguments, and concept analysis
- The level of pace and challenge appropriate for the ability level of the student.

Stage III

- Independent projects
- Self-directed inquiry
- Development of real products to share with real audiences
- Apply knowledge to real problems

- Progress sequentially through the “Stages”
- Curriculum/subject based

Supplies

- Small supply fee for each class
- Fee included in registration
  - Teachers receive $8 per child for supplies
- Donations from community

Field Trips/Guest Speakers

- Graduate students – access to departments at nearby university
- Libraries
- Hospital
- Animal hospital
- Law firm
- Theatre

HOPE

- Having Opportunities Promotes Excellence!
- This has shown true for hundreds of lower-income students from rural, urban, and suburban school districts.

HOPE

- These students are identified using a teacher rating scale – The HOPE Nomination Scale and achievement test scores as low as 70th percentile (The Achievement Trap, 2005).
- These students performed as well as their peers from higher-income families in classes geared 2 grade-levels above their current grade.

Curriculum

- Curriculum is always a challenge when designing enrichment classes.
- There are several things to consider:
  - Who will teach?
  - What will be taught?
  - Who will be taught?

Who Will Teach?

- Experts in a particular field
  - Veterinary medicine
  - Chemistry
  - Art
- People with passion
  - Teachers teaching their favorite unit
    - Engineering
    - Mythbusters
    - Rollercoaster Physics

What Will Be Taught?

- You don't have to re-invent the wheel!
  - William and Mary units
  - Boston Museum of Science curriculum
- Choose unique ways to teach concepts
  - Funky Physics
  - Mythbusters the Right Way
  - Why Do Buildings Fall Down?
  - Life in Shakespearian Time

Who Will Be Taught?

- There is much to be said for passion and motivation.
- Multiple pathways in.
- Should there be minimum achievement or ability requirements?
- How do you attract students from all walks of life?

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Questions/Discussion?

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