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