

DIXIE MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES POLICY

INSTRUCTIONAL BEST PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

In order to provide an environment where all students perform up to their potential and are prepared for the future, we will make sure students

- Are actively involved in their own learning.
- Use writing as a way to learn.
- Have some ownership over what is being learned.
- Communicate with peers what they are learning.
- Use technology in meaningful ways.
- Study subjects in a way that shows them applications to real life.
- Are able to make connections among content areas.
- Are instructed in ways that help all students learn the Core Academic Standards, which Kentucky has determined are essential for all students to know and be able to do.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

To help ensure our instructional practices are implemented, several opportunities will be given each grading period to make sure that students

- Receive appropriate and meaningful feedback.
- Work with other students in pairs, small groups, or teams.
- Do hands-on activities.
- Use technology as a tool for learning.
- Read books or materials on their own or with a partner.
- Listen to an adult read aloud.
- Discuss different ways to solve problems.
- Read and write in all content answers.
- Do short answer, extended response, and on-demand items.
- Communicate with pictures, charts, graphs, or a web.
- Use a scoring guide.
- Use resources other than a textbook or a worksheet.
- Use manipulatives or equipment to solve problems.
- Be exposed to real-life examples that relate to content areas.
- Discuss or read about current events, issues, or topics.
- Watch the teacher do a demonstration.
- Perform or create in an area of arts and humanities.
- Participate in a one-on-one reading or writing conference with a teacher.
- Do projects and investigations.
- Participate in a peer reading or writing conference.
- Read novels, short stories, and poems.
- Read newspapers and magazines.
- Use technology for research.
- Do real-life activities or projects.

- Design or investigate projects based on their interests.
- Speak in front of a group.

TEACHER ROLE

To ensure that the principles and guidelines above are implemented. Teachers shall use strategies and methodologies that reflect best practices in current educational literature. The practices include, but are not limited to:

- Teachers use a variety of student-centered instructional strategies such as cooperative learning, learning centers, and hands-on activities, etc.
- Classroom instruction regularly addresses various learning styles, the multiple intelligences and brain research.
- Use activities where all students use higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Content area and interdisciplinary connections are intentionally planned and addressed in instruction.
- Provide opportunities for students to connect their learning to other topics and subjects and real life experiences.
- Instruction is aligned to the school curriculum, which is based on the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.
- Learning activities regularly require students to complete assessment tasks similar to those used for state and local assessments (e.g., constructed and extended responses, open-responses and multiple choice questions).
- Teachers use technology as an integral part of instruction in all areas (e.g. research, product development, data organization).
- Instructional resources are developmentally appropriate for all students.
- Instructional resources appropriately reflect diversity for all students, incorporating culturally responsive instructional strategies to address various learning styles.
- The media center provides current and appropriate resources to support the school's curriculum and the needs of the student population.
- Students regularly have instructional opportunities to connect their learning to real-life experiences.
- Individual teachers and teacher teams analyze the work of their students on a regular basis and use the results to make instructional decisions in all content areas.
- Individual teachers apply the analysis process to examine the work of their own students, using the results to inform their instructional practices.
- Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. Homework is to be routinely monitored. Feedback should be given to students based on accuracy, completion, and quality.

PRINCIPAL ROLE

To ensure that these instructional practice principles and guidelines are implemented and teachers are able to fulfill their role, the principal will:

- Make sure these instructional practice principles and guidelines are taken into account in both the interview process and the final selection of all teachers.
- Ensure integration of program review areas throughout the school across the

curriculum.

- Encourage and support teachers in their role.
- Encourage professional development that supports the implementation of this policy.
- For Arts and Humanities – Teachers of the arts are provided professional development to improve their content knowledge and teaching skills specific to instruction in their arts discipline.
- For Practical Living/Career Studies – Practical living and career studies teachers have access to professional development that supports research based effective instructional strategies specific to their discipline.

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy through our School Improvement Planning Process.

Date Adopted: 3/20/07

Date Reviewed or Revised: 6/5/14

Date Reviewed or Revised: 4/11/16