

Affirm Refine Aspire

HS4 Learning Services Newsletter - December 2021

The Why, How, and What of Differentiation

I want to thank all of our teachers who attended our elementary grade level meetings over the past month. I acknowledge how challenging it is to plan to be away from your students, and I hope the opportunity to collaborate, celebrate and puzzle through questions with your colleagues was time well spent. The resounding theme that emerged from these meetings is that the level of diversity within our classrooms is more prevalent than ever before, and the range of needs, skills and abilities of our students is even wider. The job of the classroom teacher is made even more challenging to meet each and every one of our students where they are and help them to experience growth and success in learning when the range of needs is vast. The resources in this month's edition of *Affirm, Refine, Aspire* are dedicated to supporting differentiation within our classrooms. Below you will find links to resources and professional learning opportunities that will support you as you address the needs of *all* of our learners. As always, please continue to reach out to the Learning Coaches if you would like further support to address differentiation (or any other topic) in your classroom.

I wish all of you a most blessed Advent Season, and a very Merry Christmas to you and your families. I hope the break is an opportunity to recharge and refocus on what is most important for you. Enjoy time spent with family and friends -- I look forward to reconnecting with each of you in the New Year.

Carmen Larsen
Director of Learning

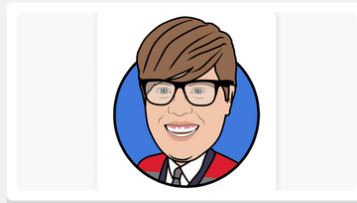


Why is it important to differentiate my instruction?

"In differentiated classrooms, teachers begin where students are, not the front of a curriculum guide."

~ Carol Ann Tomlinson

*[7 Reasons Why Differentiated Instruction Works](#)



How can I differentiate to meet the needs of my students?

Shelley Moore video

*[Dr. Baked Potato](#)
*[Differentiation Through a UDL Lens](#)
*[A Starter Kit for Differentiated Instruction](#)



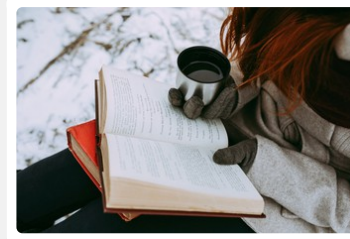
What tools can help me differentiate?

*[Class Review Template](#)
*[Class Support Plan Template](#)
*[AAC - Differentiation Planning Tool](#)



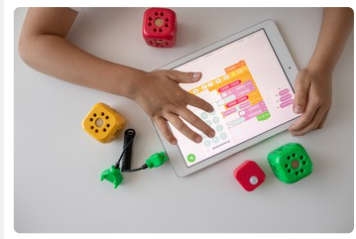
Five Whole Class Strategies for a Learner-Centered Classroom

Read more about differentiation [here](#).



Professional Learning Opportunities - Differentiation

Request and Sign out Resources from the [CEC Library](#).



What is Research Anyway?

In schools, a lot of what passes as "research" really isn't. [Here's how to know.](#)

Sometimes Reading Is Hard by Dr. Robin Bright Grade 7 to 9 Book Study

When

Tuesday, Dec. 7th, 3:30-4pm

Where

Google Meet: Grade Level Meeting

More information

RSVP [Here](#)

HS4 Learning Services Book Study Group

Using decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension strategies to inspire fluent, passionate, lifelong readers. Copies are available for loan through the St. Basil's PD Centre Library.



Grade 7 to 9 BOOK STUDY

Sometimes Reading Is Hard

Using decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension strategies to inspire fluent, passionate, lifelong readers

by Robin Bright

Chapters Include:

What do you mean I have to teach reading?

Decoding: On the Path to Fluency

Fluency: Teaching How to Recognize Words Automatically

Vocabulary: Teaching How to Build a Library of Words

Comprehension: Teaching How to Construct Meaning from Reading

Sustaining the Journey: How to Inspire Your Students to Love Reading

Where Does the Path Lead Now?

Information Meeting

Date: December 7, 2021

Time: 3:30pm-4:00pm

Book study dates
to be determined.



Register early space is limited to 10 participants.
Copies are available for loan through the St. Basil's PD Centre Library.



Winter 2021/22

Featuring...



Book Study

ASSESSING with RESPECT

December 28
4 - 4:30pm MT

Introduction

January 6
4 - 5:00pm MT

Facilitated discussion

January 13
4 - 5:00pm MT

Conversation with author Starr Sackstein



Fee: \$25 for AAC members!



Visit aac.ab.ca to register



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

The Learning Services Team

[Carmen Larsen](#) - Director of Learning

[Dianne Brodie](#) - Learning Coach

[Louise Knodel](#) - Learning Coach

[Learning Services Help](#)

Working together to improve student learning

620 12B Street North, Lethbrid...

learningservices@holyspirit.ab...

4033279555

holyspirit.ab.ca