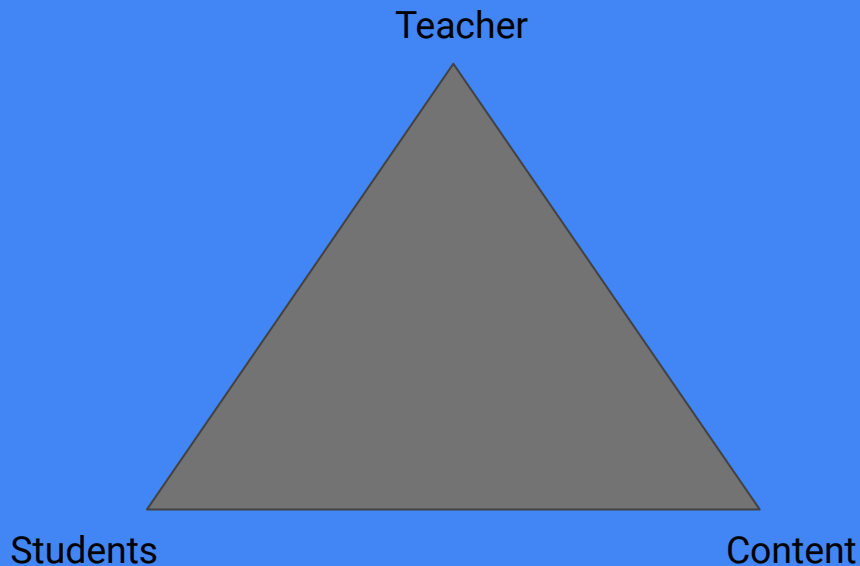


Learning Environments That Support Differentiated Instruction

Tomlinson Ch. 4

Teaching as a Learning Triangle



The Teacher

- Embracing Classroom Leadership and Responsibility
 - Security: “the variables in a classroom are so great they make uncertainty both inevitable and proper.”
 - “It’s not so important to be ‘right’ but to be open; it’s not so important to have all the answers as to be hungry for them.”
 - Control climate

The Students

- Attending to Their Differences & Opportunities
 - They're all alike & different
 - Need unconditional acceptance
 - Need to believe they can become better than they are today
 - Need help living up to their dreams
 - Need to make their own sense of things
 - More effective when collaborating with adults

The Students Cont.

- Need action, joy, and peace
- Need power over their lives and learning
 - Help to develop that power and use it wisely
- Need to be secure in a larger world

The Content

- Making It Compelling for Learners
 - What is taught and learned is:
 - Relevant to the students
 - Helps students understand themselves
 - Is authentic and offers 'real' history, math, or art (not just exercises)
 - Can be used immediately by the students
 - Opens students' ideas to their power and potential in & out of the classroom

Characteristics of a Healthy Classroom Environment



Characteristics of a Healthy Classroom Environment

- There are no recipes/blueprints teachers need to follow
- The Teacher Appreciates Each Child as an Individual
 - There is no such thing as a dumb or unattractive student
- The teacher remembers to teach the whole child
 - What children bring from home can't be left at the classroom door and what children learn in a lesson must go home with them to be truly effective
- The teacher continues to develop expertise
 - In application of insights and skills rather than mastery of facts

Characteristics of a Healthy Classroom Environment

- The teacher links students and ideas
 - Help students understand how and what they're learning applies to their lives
- The teacher strives for joyful learning
- The teacher sets high expectations-and provides lots of ladders
 - They know the next benchmark that each child needs to reach and provide scaffolding to get there

Characteristics of a Healthy Classroom Environment

- The teacher helps students make their own sense of ideas
 - Teachers help students take responsibility for inventing their own understanding of the world and how to live in it
- The teacher shares the teaching with the students
 - Teachers engage students in classroom routines and helps students learn to contribute to the operating of the class and makes sure that students know how to teach each other and learn from one another effectively

Characteristics of a Healthy Classroom Environment

- The teacher promotes student independence
 - Teachers provide less and less to help and allow students to figure things out for themselves
- The teacher exercises positive classroom management

“It’s difficult to plan curriculum that grabs the attention of young learners, challenging to think of assessment as a ‘mentor’ rather than a ‘judge’ of learning, demanding to plan instruction that accounts for learner needs, and daunting to guide a classroom that is premised on the need for flexibility. Most difficult of all a teacher’s jobs, however, and likely most important in terms of student success, is creating a classroom environment that issues a daily invitation to each learner who inhabits it, offering acceptance, affirmation, challenge, and support.”

-Carol Ann Tomlinson