

Joanne Kmiec

1. Differentiate instruction and assessment to meet the individual learning needs of all students
2. Provide learning experiences that are inquiry-based, and develop students' critical and creative thinking skills
3. Foster a growth mindset in all students
4. Prioritize the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of each student, while also developing critical social and emotional learning skills
5. Develop a classroom community based on mutual trust and respect
6. Utilize ongoing and authentic assessment that informs teaching practice
7. Establish multiple methods for ongoing and collaborative communication with families
8. Contribute as part of a dynamic team with the school staff



Key Classroom Entry Activities

Getting Informed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak with the previous year's teacher(s) • Read the students' OSRs • Read student IEPs • Collaborate with students to create detailed student profiles • Run a few icebreakers where students can tell me more about themselves • Conduct several diagnostic assessments for literacy and numeracy 	Planning for Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a detailed long range plan, looking for overlapping grade themes and spiral curriculum opportunities • Establish routines for learning times where the two grades need to focus on different learning goals • Create a class schedule that supports routine learning tasks as well as exploratory learning tasks • Design learning tasks based on differentiated inquiry-based learning
Creating a Classroom Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a co-created list of classroom rules, routines and norms • Establish routines for celebrating student successes • Establish an environment of trust and respect • Speak with each student individually to get to know their likes, dislikes, interests • Provide several methods for students to offer ideas and requests for their learning based on their interests, readiness, and learning profile • Demonstrate respect for local activities and community events through classroom learning (i.e. Soapbox Derby) 	Connecting with Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send a newsletter home with an introduction to me, contact information for me, an outline of some of the learning this coming year, important dates, and other valuable information • Create a classroom website, or Class Dojo, that allows communication with families (ensuring hard copies of all information are available for all families that do not have Internet access at home) • Set up communication books/agenda for ongoing communication with home • Call home regularly to each family to celebrate student success and discuss any concerns collaboratively
Classroom Set-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine available classroom resources • Based on information obtained about students, arrange an initial strategic seating plan • Design bulletin boards and wall space to support key learning ideas 	Connecting with the School Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet all school staff • Ask about opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular activities • Learning about the school policies and procedures • Learn about what resources are available onsite, and what resources can be requested from the Board