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Expect Extraordinary

Centers...Not Just for Primary Grades

Katie McKnight, Ph.D.

Together let's create extraordinary classrooms.

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We believe educators have the most important job in the world.


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What We Will Do In This Session

Examine different strategies for developing content literacy skills in 6th-12th grade through centers.

Witness classrooms across the United States where students are using centers for engaging teaching and learning.



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What is Content Literacy?

Generally defined as

“the ability to use reading and writing for the acquisition of new content in a given discipline ”

(McKenna & Robinson, 1990, p. 184)

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Assumptions Underlying Content Literacy

Subject Matter
Role of the Textbook
Active Readers
Independent Readers



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5

Where is Content Information Stored?



Reference books
Textbooks
Primary Sources
Charts
Web Pages
Images
Formulas

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Read a Wide Variety of Texts


Students must read in every class.

Provide students with varied and engaging texts.

Use strategies that support struggling readers.

Your classroom and school must provide abundant access of engaging and diverse reading materials.


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What are Learning Centers?

- Learning Centers are locations that a teacher designs for students to work in small groups or individually.
- Each center has a clearly articulated learning activity.

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Getting Started: A Checklist

- 1** Write out all directions for the students for each center.
- 2** Explain procedures and have them written out and posted in your classroom.


Micah Cunningham

Stations Passport

When this cycle is finished, you should have completed EVERY activity.

- Sharing Out- vocabulary (w/3/1)
- Sharing Out- postcards *5/2/12/1*
- "Elements" jinxes
- Group Analysis
- Sticky Note Strategies- "Sharp"
- Sticky Note Strategies- "I, Trouble"
- Making Connections- Character Chart
- Faux Pat Anecdote
- Literature Circle Book Selection
- Grammar Pretest
- Parts of Speech Foldable
- Free Rice Exploration Activity
- Compass Learning

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Getting Started: A Checklist

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Create a "make up center" at the end of the rotation so that students can complete any unfinished work. Review and revision are key in the development of literacy skills sets.



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Getting Started: A Checklist (cont.)

4

The teacher should circulate among the groups to facilitate answers and questions about the work.

5

Formal assessment occurs when the students have finished the unit.

6

When possible, give students a choice at each center.

I like to make a poster for each center. Let's look at a model for learning centers.

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A Classroom Picture Sample Stations for First Rotation

Vocabulary Activity

Reading Strategy

Content Study

Practice With Content

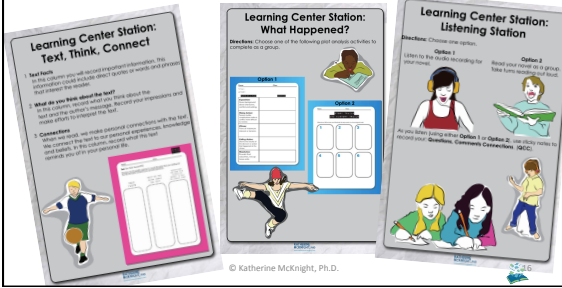
Listening or Viewing Center

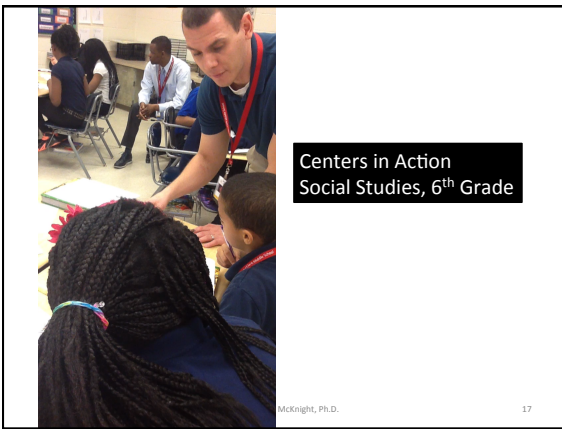
Make Up Center

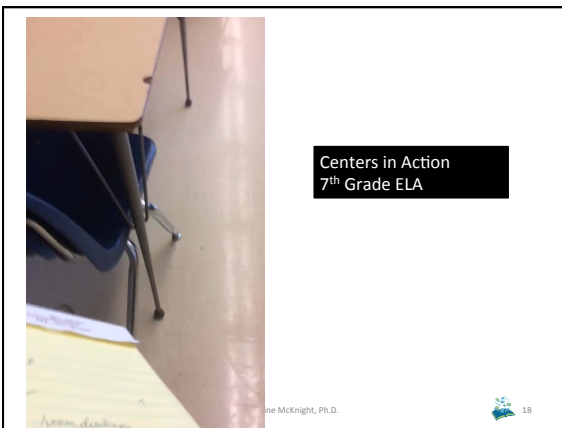
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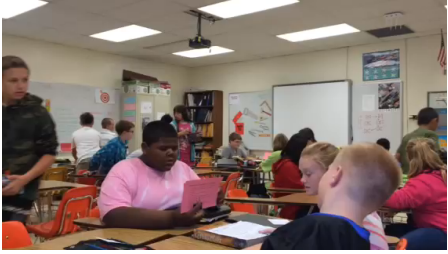
More Center Materials
<http://goo.gl/qe57cR>





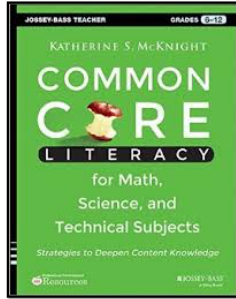
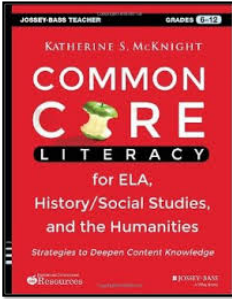


7th Grade Center Transition



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Contains Center Implementation Strategies and Templates



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USBs with Tons-O Resources

Volume 1 Literacy Centers

- Literacy Center Posters
- 70 page booklet of graphic Organizers
- Mini Lessons for Literary Analysis, Vocabulary, and Reading
- Close Reading Posters and More!

Volume 2 Literature Circle CENTERS and Young Adult Literature

- Book Lists
- Center Activities

Volume 3 Grammar

- Got Grammar? Over 50 Kinesthetic Grammar Mini Lessons
- Hands on Grammar book

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