

Diversity and Learning

September 2009



Differentiated learning allows each student to learn at the depth, complexity, and pace that is most beneficial to him or her. We must consider each student's interests, levels of readiness, pace of learning, strengths and weaknesses. Students vary in the way that they learn which may include one or more of the following: visually, verbally, hands-on, technology based, musical, logical, and cooperatively. Differentiated learning provides for the needs of all students, including those with special educational needs such as students with learning disabilities and gifted and talented students.

Each classroom lesson:

- **has a significant goal for all students**
- **includes an array of teacher techniques aimed at reaching all students at all levels**
- **considers each student's learning style(s)**
- **engages all students in the lesson through the use of questioning aimed at different levels of thinking (Bloom's Taxonomy)**
- **takes into consideration that some students may need additional accommodations**
- **makes available choices in the method students will use to demonstrate that they understand a key concept (TIC TAC TOE)**
- **evaluates students based on their individual differences**

Why we as teachers use differentiated instruction:

- **encourages inclusion of all students at any educational levels**
- **addresses different learning styles**
- **allows teacher to reach all of the students some of the time**
- **allows for diversity among students**
- **fosters social relations and self-worth**
- **meets the students social, emotional and academic needs**

The one choice you never have is the choice to do nothing!