

St. Joseph School District Foundational Practices

Posted & Up-to-Date

- Learning Targets/Objectives or “I Can” Statements
- Outline of daily activities
- Curricular Scope and Sequence
- Grades/Feedback for students at least weekly
- Current lesson plans
- Frequent parent contact using a variety of methods

Classroom Environment

- Engaged students learning in an inclusive environment
- High expectations for all students
- High-quality displays of student work that demonstrate learning related to learning targets
- Positive student/teacher relationships
- Frequent opportunities for students to respond in class
- Use of anchor charts
- Teacher movement and the use of proximity to monitor student understanding & student behavior
- Clean and appealing rooms that are free of clutter
- Positive, daily greeting of students in hallways and at the classroom door

Instructional Processes

- Authentic experiences & real-world connections
- Data used to guide instructional decisions
- Use of small and whole group instructional strategies
- Implementation of IEPs, 504s, behavior plans, and student success plans with fidelity
- Integration of Project Based Learning
- iReady and Lexia tools used to support math and literacy instruction
- Targeted small group lessons
- High-quality questioning strategies
- Use of academic language in instruction & questioning

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Innovation

- Integration of the 4Cs—Creativity, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration
- Real-time knowledge of student skills and learning needs
- Blended learning environments that use technology and print resources as tools to enhance the instructional environment
- Opportunities to explore interests through genius hour, maker projects, research/interest-based learning activities, or experiential learning

Math Instructional Practices

- A balanced math instructional approach that includes cooperative/collaborative learning strategies, discussions, journaling/notebooking, inquiry, critical thinking, and problem-solving
- Student conferencing and the use of anecdotal records
- The use of small skills groups for instruction
- Daily opportunities for students to build or extend skills
- Authentic experiences & real-world connections

Literacy Instructional Practices

- Instruction that includes cooperative/collaborative learning strategies, discussions, and journaling/notebooking
- A Balanced Literacy approach to instruction that includes reading aloud, guided reading, shared reading and writing, Reader's and Writer's Workshop, word study, and the inclusion of phonics
- Student conferencing and the use of anecdotal records
- The use of small skills groups for instruction
- Daily opportunities for students to build or extend skills
- Encouraging literacies across all disciplines through academic vocabulary and content-based instruction