

Characteristics of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning ~ Common to all Content Areas

The following statements represent characteristics that are common to all content areas.

<p>1. Learning Climate: a safe environment supported by the teacher in which high, clear expectations and positive relationships are fostered; active learning is promoted</p>	<p>2. Classroom Assessment and Reflection: the teacher and student collaboratively gather information and reflect on learning through a systematic process that informs instruction</p>
<p><u>Teacher Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A. creates learning environments where students are active participants as individuals and as members of collaborative groups</p> <p>___ B. motivates students and nurtures their desire to learn in a safe, healthy and supportive environment which develops compassion and mutual respect</p> <p>___ C. cultivates cross cultural understandings and the value of diversity</p> <p>___ D. encourages students to accept responsibility for their own learning and accommodates the diverse learning needs of all students</p> <p>___ E. displays effective and efficient classroom management that includes classroom routines that promote comfort, order and appropriate student behaviors</p> <p>___ F. provides students equitable access to technology, space, tools and time</p> <p>___ G. effectively allocates time for students to engage in hands-on experiences, discuss and process content, and make meaningful connections</p> <p>___ H. designs lessons that allow students to participate in empowering activities in which they understand that learning is a process and mistakes are a natural part of learning</p> <p>___ I. creates an environment where student work is valued, appreciated and used as a learning tool</p> <p><u>Student Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A. accepts responsibility for his/her own learning</p> <p>___ B. actively participates and is authentically engaged</p> <p>___ C. collaborates/teams with other students</p> <p>___ D. exhibits a sense of accomplishment and confidence</p> <p>___ E. takes educational risks in class</p> <p>___ F. Practices and engages in safe, responsible and ethical use of technology</p>	<p><u>Teacher Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A. Uses multiple methods to systematically gather data about student understanding and ability</p> <p>___ B. Uses student work/data, observations of instruction, assignments and interactions with colleagues to reflect on and improve teaching practice</p> <p>___ C. Revises instructional strategies based upon student achievement data</p> <p>___ D. Uncovers students' prior understanding of the concepts to be addressed and addresses students' misconceptions/incomplete conceptions</p> <p>___ E. Co-develops scoring guides/rubrics with students and provides adequate modeling to make clear the expectations for quality performance</p> <p>___ F. Guides students to apply rubrics to assess their performance and identify improvement strategies</p> <p>___ G. Provides regular and timely feedback to students and parents that moves learners forward</p> <p>___ H. Allows students to use feedback to improve their work before a grade is assigned</p> <p>___ I. Facilitates students in self- and peer-assessment</p> <p>___ J. Reflects on instruction and makes adjustments as student learning occurs</p> <p><u>Student Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A. Recognizes what proficient work looks like and determines steps necessary for improving his/her work</p> <p>___ B. Monitors progress toward reaching learning targets</p> <p>___ C. Develops and/or uses scoring guides periodically to assess his/her own work or that of peers</p> <p>___ D. Uses teacher and peer feedback to improve his/her work</p> <p>___ E. Reflects on work and makes adjustments as learning occurs</p>

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<p>3. Instructional Rigor and Student Engagement: a teacher supports and encourages a student's commitment to initiate and complete complex, inquiry-based learning requiring creative and critical thinking with attention to problem solving</p>	<p>4. Instructional Relevance: a teacher's ability to facilitate learning experiences that are meaningful to students and prepare them for their futures.</p>
<p><u>Teacher Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A - Teacher instructs the complex processes, concepts and principles contained in state and national standards using differentiated strategies that make instruction accessible to all students.</p> <p>___ B – Teacher scaffolds instruction to help students reason and develop problem-solving strategies.</p> <p>___ C - Teacher orchestrates effective classroom discussions, questioning, and learning tasks that promote higher-order thinking skills.</p> <p>___ D -Teacher provides meaningful learning opportunities for students.</p> <p>___ E -Teacher challenges students to think deeply about problems and encourages/models a variety of approaches to a solution.</p> <p>___ F -Teacher integrates a variety of learning resources with classroom instruction to increase learning options.</p> <p>___ G -Teacher structures and facilitates ongoing formal and informal discussions based on a shared understanding of rules and discourse.</p> <p>___ H -Teacher integrates the application of inquiry skills into learning experiences.</p> <p>___ I -Teacher clarifies and shares with students learning intentions/targets and criteria for success.</p> <p><u>Student Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A -Student articulates and understands learning intentions/targets and criteria for success.</p> <p>___ B - Student reads with understanding a variety of texts.</p> <p>___ C -Student applies and refines inquiry skills.</p>	<p><u>Teacher Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A-Teacher designs learning opportunities that allow students to participate in empowering activities in which they understand that learning is a process and mistakes are a natural part of the learning.</p> <p>___ B-Teacher links concepts and key ideas to students' prior experiences and understandings, uses multiple representations, examples and explanations.</p> <p>___ C-Teacher incorporates student experiences, interests and real-life situations in instruction.</p> <p>___ D-Teacher selects and utilizes a variety of technology that support student learning.</p> <p>___ E-Teacher effectively incorporates 21st Century Learning Skills that prepare students to meet future challenges.</p> <p>___ F-Teacher works with other teachers to make connections between and among disciplines.</p> <p>___ G-Teacher makes lesson connections to community, society, and current events.</p> <p><u>Student Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A-Student poses and responds to meaningful questions.</p> <p>___ B-Student uses appropriate tools and techniques to gather, analyze and interpret information from quantitative and qualitative evidence.</p> <p>___ C-Student develops descriptions, explanation, predictions, and models using evidence.</p> <p>___ D-Student works collaboratively to address complex, authentic problems, which require innovative approaches to solve.</p> <p>___ E-Student communicates knowledge and understanding in a variety of real-world forms.</p> <p>___ F-Student communicates knowledge and understanding for a variety of purposes.</p>
<p>5. Knowledge of Content: a teacher's understanding and application of the current theories, principles, concepts and skills of a discipline.</p>	
<p><u>Teacher Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A- Teacher demonstrates an understanding and in-depth knowledge of content and maintains an ability to convey this content to students.</p> <p>___ B- Teacher maintains on-going knowledge and awareness of current content developments.</p> <p>___ C- Teacher designs and implements standards-based courses/lessons/units using state and national standards.</p> <p>___ D- Teacher uses and promotes the understanding of appropriate content vocabulary.</p> <p>___ E- Teacher provides essential supports for students who are struggling with the content.</p> <p>___ F- Teacher accesses a rich repertoire of instructional practices, strategies, resources and applies them appropriately.</p>	<p><u>Student Characteristics:</u></p> <p>___ A- Student demonstrates growth in content knowledge.</p> <p>___ B-Student uses and seeks to expand appropriate content vocabulary.</p> <p>___ C-Student connects ideas across content areas.</p> <p>___ D- Student uses ideas in realistic problem solving situations.</p>