

S dePaul School

Respect [Teach [challenge [inspire

Working Hard to Be Our Best

To improve student performance, updating materials and technology are good steps to take, but, according to the Learning Disabilities Association (LDA), teacher training is the single factor that is shown to make measurable differences in student performance.

To that end, the next 8 weeks are full of teacher training and education opportunities for dePaul teachers and staff. This week was the Future of Educational Technology Conference, next week will be an in-service training on iPad management. In February, some teachers will be attending an iPad conference in Ft. Lauderdale. April is the Florida Branch Conference of the IDA. Most exciting of all however, is the entire staff will be attending the LDA Annual Conference in Orlando in February! (Thanks in part to money raised through the Annual Fund!)

These opportunities are so valuable! When we can join together with other experienced professionals in our field to refresh and recharge and learn more real skills and effective teaching techniques it helps us become better teachers and administrators. I am proud of our commitment to professional development and our determination to always keep informed of the latest research, methods, technologies and techniques in the field of learning disabilities. We must always be learning and improving so we can be our best and provide the highest quality education for our students!

Vicki Howell, Head of School

Intensive Intervention in Mathematics

While dePaul is known for helping dyslexic children learn to read, many of our students also struggle with math. Math at dePaul is taught in a very specific way and students work on concepts until they have mastered them. *(over)*

{we change lives}



Upcoming Events

January 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
School Closed

January 21

Informational Open-House for
Prospective Parents
4:30-5:30

January 29

Traditional Program Fieldtrip to
Clearwater Marine Aquarium

February 5

Delta Program Fieldtrip to Dali
Museum

February 10

Summer Reading Camp Open-
House, 4:30-5:30

February 11

End of 2nd Grading Period

February 12

Calendar Change
School in Session

February 15

Presidents Day
School Closed

February 16

Calendar Change
Professional Ed Day
No School for students

A recent article in the journal *Learning Disabilities Research and Practice* outlined elements of intensive math intervention that are based on research from across the US. These elements are exactly what our math program uses today and always has. According to this research, the critical ingredients (all of which we use) for effective, intensive math intervention are:

1. Every lesson should begin with a warm-up – a 2-3 minute review of previously learned material.
2. Explicit Instruction – including step-by-step modeling, asking students questions and asking for feedback.
3. Guided practice – the teacher guides the student using the same step-by-step process presented within the modeling. The teacher may show work on paper, use a whiteboard or technology, and students might use the same mediums (during steps 2 & 3 teachers give immediate corrective feedback).
4. Review of concepts (1-3 min) – This may be focused on the skill or be cumulative in nature.
5. Motivation Component – helps keep students on task and shows how they make progress through the lesson.

To intensify the instruction even more, teachers can break problems into smaller steps, encourage student explanations, use more and different types of modeling, use worked examples, provide repeated practice opportunities and use activities to build fluency.



Class Notes

...The success of the Annual Fund has made it possible to purchase a 2nd basketball hoop! Look for our students to be learning the basics of basketball and playing games at PE!

...Ms. Pam needs donations of buttons for an upcoming project. Please send any unwanted buttons to school with your child 😊

...Ms. Lamboley sent an email with links to YouTube videos of the songs they are practicing in violin class. What a great way for the students to practice at home – watching technique and listening! Contact Ms. Boortz if you need the link.

...What a busy December we had! Holiday Parties, Guest Speaker, Field Trips, Holiday Tea, Afternoon of the Arts -- Be sure to "Like" dePaul School Clearwater on Facebook and check out the pictures from all our events and activities!

Big Cat Rescue

Delta students went on a fieldtrip to Big Cat Rescue in December. In exchange for admission fees, dePaul School sponsored Sassyfrass the cougar! Classes can follow her activities via the website.



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