

# Centering Curriculum around differentiation



Curriculum is what we teach while differentiation is how we teach. An effective curriculum grabs the attention of all students and to achieve this, differentiation must be part an integral part of instruction. It's important for students to know the "how" and "why" when teaching new concepts. Students who understand the importance of what they are learning and how it connects to real-life motivates them more to learn. It is also essential for teachers to have high expectations for their students. Forcing distinct learners to conform to one method of instruction can be detrimental to those students who learn differently.

There are many ways to include differentiation in your curriculum. Understanding by design is a conceptual curriculum where students break down big ideas into increments to get a better understanding of the concept being taught. SHOUT is an interesting program where students tackle global environmental issues. Students understand the importance of the lesson and how it relates to the real-world which contributes to more meaningful learning. Class websites and virtual field trips are other examples of differentiating a classroom.