

TEACHERS TACKLE DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION FROM 'A' TO 'Z'



Teachers from St. Paul School in Timmins brainstorm on differentiated instruction.

With curriculum documents and resources in hand, teachers convened at various locations throughout the Northeastern Catholic District School Board today to take part in a day of professional development and dialogue. The program for this first of two additional professional activity days this year reflects the Ministry's mandate to improve skills and knowledge in a range of instructional and assessment strategies.

The Board's Team of Program Principals and Special Assignment Teachers prepared sessions which focused primarily on the importance of differentiated instruction and ways to best deliver the curriculum accordingly.

Primary and junior teachers tackled this topic from A to Z in order to better meet the varying needs of their students. The day provided opportunities for teachers in their respective divisions to engage in professional dialogue and the sharing of best practices. Through hands-on learning and diverse activities, teachers and principals gained a better understanding of effective teaching practices to enhance student achievement.

At the intermediate level, participants began the day with an informative and interactive presentation on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test as well as the provincial Grade 9 Math assessment. By better understanding the benchmarks that their students will need to meet at the secondary level, they will be in a better position to support their learning. They later broke into smaller groups each assigned to target the grade 7 or 8 curriculum in Math, French Immersion, Languages, Science or Industrial Arts. Discussion also included an integration of strategies found in the 'Think Literacy' Ministry documents. The goal was to provide them with further strategies and tools that can be used with all levels of the curriculum and across all subject areas.

Teachers at O'Gorman High School also participated in organized workshops led by a school team. Through full and small group sessions, they applied the differentiated instruction approach at the secondary level, with an emphasis on teacher learning.

With a winter storm anticipated last night, members of the Curriculum Team prepared a contingency plan to ensure that the professional activities be able to proceed for teachers in all of our communities. The Board wishes to recognize the efforts of the Team and facilitators at school sites who quickly modified the schedule for the day and redistributed workshop materials due to the inclement weather.

**For more information, please contact:
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Intermediate teachers took part in an interactive session on the OSSLT.

