

Challenge Lab Review
Kerrville ISD, Kerrville, Texas
October 13, 2010

Attendees

Win Graham	Board member
Beau Rees	Superintendent
Ashley Stewart	Director of Curriculum and Instruction,
Harper Stewart	Principal of Crestview Elementary,
Hayley Langford	Third Grade Educator at Crestview Elementary

Tally Elementary

Teacher: Lisa Davis

8:30 – Open Lab Time

1st and 2nd grade math extensions

Students checked in on a computer system that tracks their attendance and Activities

Students choose from different games / activities that are ½ to 1 grade level higher than their instructional or enrolled grade level

Heterogeneous mix of students – higher / lower, male / female, 1st / 2nd

Children stayed various amounts of time – some for only 15 minutes, some for 30 minutes

Children came for various reasons – accomplished a reading goal, made a 100 a pre-test for spelling, completed class work, etc

Starkey Elementary

Teacher: Tana Althaus

9:30 – 5th Grade Study Group Time

5th grade students only

GT and higher achieving students as determined by the classroom teachers and Challenge Lab teachers

Studying different enigmas found in the world around us

Current topic of study – Who REALLY Discovered America

Students were having in depth conversations about their research, defending their opinions, practicing public speaking and active listening, evaluation of each other's thoughts, etc.

Students had worked in cooperative groups to do research, but each student had developed and presented his/her own stance

The Challenge Lab

The Next Step After Mastery

What is The Challenge Lab?

The Challenge Lab is a place for students to come for extensions after they have shown academic mastery in their classrooms.

Why do students go to The Challenge Lab?

Students go to The Challenge Lab to enhance their learning beyond the differentiation offered in the classroom and to celebrate academic achievement.

How do students get sent to The Challenge Lab?

Students are sent to The Challenge Lab by their classroom teachers for academic mastery including high grades on pretests, mastery of objectives or work that is completed correctly.

What do students do once they are sent to The Challenge Lab?

Students will participate in extensions from their classroom while in The Challenge Lab. Often, these activities will be hands-on learning experiences.

The Challenge Lab is a place that:

- Allows independent exploration
- Requires higher-level thinking
- Helps students produce advanced-level products
- Offers depth and complexity
- Embraces cooperative learning
- Teaches problem solving
- Encourages creativity
- Develops lifelong learners

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CHALLENGE LAB PLAN

2009-2010



1. Scheduled time for GT students (as last year):

- Lunch Bunch groups will meet once per week for social-emotional development lessons/discussions
- Planned units/research/advanced level products for those groups (as required by state law)
- I will plan and facilitate these activities...similar across district
- District-wide project fair in the spring will showcase the students' work

2. Themes for GT groups (all are cross curricular):

- 1st Grade: Egypt and Pyramids
- 2nd Grade: Ocean and Water Research
- 3rd Grade: Economics
- 4th Grade: Fairy Tales on Trial
- 5th Grade: Passion Project

3. Uses of the Lab (**Communication is key!)

- The Lab will be closed during the scheduled times, but drop-ins are encouraged anytime there is open lab.
- A final schedule will be given to teachers A.S.A.P.
- Any special project you want to use the lab for (ex: research, extended project or activity) please do so during the open lab times

4. Planning for differentiation in your regular classroom...Let the Challenge Lab be a resource for you!

- Teacher books and menu sources are available in the lab
- The lab has many great resources to help plan differentiation activities
- I am excited and willing to help generate ideas for your students!

❖ Schedule:

- ✓ August 31st: LAB OPENS!!! Please remember to send your groups!!!
- ✓ Lab schedule allows for 1 Monday morning block for weekly conference period (a time that would normally be very light in the lab; used for district-wide planning also)
- ✓ Allows for Lunch Bunches for GT affective lessons
- ✓ GT is scheduled (one hour total)
- ✓ Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mostly open for drop-ins to meet teacher needs (Many students have shown mastery by the end of the week for AR points, spelling tests, skills, etc...)

The Challenge Lab The Next Step After Mastery

What

- A classroom where students can come for extension lessons, research, higher thinking games and projects
- A place where teachers can send students who have achieved an academic goal
 - High grade on test (while others review)
 - Mastery of an objective
 - Finished class work correctly and in good order
- An exciting, hands-on learning environment

Who

- Any student who achieves an academic goal (*not just for GT*)
- Identified GT students (scheduled groups)
- High achievers who need extra challenge
- Student with a passion for a topic to study in depth

When

- Scheduled groups
- Lunch Bunch
- Study Groups
- Chess Club
- Drop Ins
- Open lab times on schedule
- Pre-arranged times for small groups with classroom teachers during open lab

Why

- To add value to students' education
- To give teachers smaller groups to reinforce concepts
- To support classroom curricula in depth and complexity
- To offer more options for students needing more challenge

How

- Scheduled Groups
- Printed schedule to every teacher
- Groups come on their own at their lab time
- Open Lab
 - Passes: Teachers have a tablet of passes
 - Time to return
 - Activity requested
 - Several names on one pass
- Fridays
 - Lab time is very congested
 - Reward visits are typical
- Save research or more structured activities for another day

Subjects

- All Core Subjects
- Grade levels submit sequence of objectives for the year
- Lab Teacher coordinates activities by week/6 weeks
- Teachers may specify an objective to be addressed:
 - 4th Grade Math Obj. 2
 - 3rd grade Texas Famous Dead People

■ 2nd Grade addition double digits
w/o regrouping



Swell Ways the Challenge Lab Has Been Used!

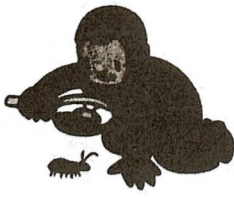


❖ *Classroom Teacher-initiated:*

- ✓ *Above level in Saxon Phonics or reading skill-come during phonics/reading skill instruction*
- ✓ *Pretest in spelling...make 100-come during spelling test on Fri*
- ✓ *Meet AR goals (daily; weekly; 6 weeks)...come during AR time*
- ✓ *Excel on math facts test...come for math extension during review*
- ✓ *Finish all work correctly for week...come Fri during "catch up" time*
- ✓ *Excel on test...come during reteach time*
- ✓ *Pretest on math or science unit- come during unit of instruction (compacting)*
- ✓ *A Honor Roll-"A" Club gets to come during study hall*
- ✓ *Special Ed: master skill- come during reteach time*
- ✓ *Finish all work correctly- come for remainder of class period*
- ✓ *Make an "A" on TAKS checkpoint or benchmark test...come during class reteaching time one day or over several days*
- ✓ *High reading group-come to read a chapter book together during reading group time*
- ✓ *100 on science TAKS vocabulary pretest...come during review and test time*
- ✓ *Request for enrichment materials for whole class unit*
- ✓ *Send high readers for enrichment, book reports during library time*
- ✓ *Split Horizons math/reading class for special activity (switch halfway)*

❖ *Lab Teacher-initiated uses:*

- ✓ *GT study groups (research & products on district-wide topics)*
- ✓ *GT Lunch Bunch affective curriculum*
- ✓ *Kinder GT affective & creative thinking curriculum*
- ✓ *Research skills*
- ✓ *Advanced-level products*
- ✓ *Advanced-level /creative book reports*
- ✓ *Chess Club*
- ✓ *Poetry/Creative writing contests*



Challenge Lab:
List of Study Group Research Topics

First Grade: Olympics/Ancient Greece/China, **Rainforest**, Egypt, Revolutionary War

Second Grade: Algebraic Thinking, **Oceans**, Economics

Third Grade: **Biomes**, China, Economics, Olympics-Ancient to Modern Greece

Fourth Grade: Debate, **Fairy Tales on Trial**, Mock Election, Playground Science, Animal Research

Fifth Grade: Bridges, Economics, **Lewis and Clark**, Olympics, Space Debris, Playground Science, Mock Election, CHIPPS (Cool Hero, Inventor, & Pioneer & President Studies)



Challenge Lab Schedule 2010 - 2011

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8:00 - 8:30	C O N F E R E N C E	3rd Study Group 8:00-9:00	4th Study Group 8:00-9:00	O P E N L A B	O P E N L A B	
8:30 - 9:00						
9:00 - 9:30		3rd Grade Math Acceleration 9:00-10:00	5th Study Group 9:00-10:00			
9:30 - 10:00						
10:00 - 10:30		2nd Study Group 10:00-11:00	O P E N L A B			
10:30 - 11:00						
11:00 - 11:30	My Lunch 11:00-11:30	My Lunch 11:00-11:30		1st & 2nd Lunch Bunch 11:00-12:00		
11:30 - 12:00	3rd Chess Club 11:40-12:15	3rd Lunch Bunch 11:40-12:15	My Lunch 11:25-12:00			
12:00 - 12:30			4th Lunch Bunch 12:05-12:40	4th Chess Club 12:05-12:40		
12:30 - 1:00	5th Chess Club 12:25-1:00	5th Lunch Bunch 12:25-1:00		My Lunch 12:40-1:15	My Lunch 12:25-1:00	
1:00 - 1:30	3rd Caesar's English 1:00-1:30	1st Study Group 1:00-2:00	O P E N L A B	4th Caesar's English 1:15-1:45	O P E N L A B	
1:30 - 2:00	O P E N L A B					
2:00 - 2:30	3rd Grade Language Arts Acceleration 2:00-3:00	5th 10 Things 2:00-3:00		O P E N L A B	C O N F E R E N C E	
2:30 - 3:00						



Challenge Lab Activity

Starkey Challenge Lab
3rd

WILLIAM

Visted On	Lab Task	Reason	Subject	Activity
1/6/2009 8:02:42 AM	Starkey Study Group	Scheduled		
1/7/2009 11:38:47 AM	Starkey Lunch Bunch	Scheduled		
1/14/2009 11:40:11 AM	Starkey Lunch Bunch	Scheduled		
1/15/2009 11:38:41 AM	Starkey Chess Club	Scheduled		the pawn
1/16/2009 10:02:10 AM	Starkey Drop In	Reward For Grades	Math	pentaminos
1/16/2009 1:34:32 PM	Starkey Drop In	Reward For Grades	Language Arts	apples to apples
1/20/2009 8:01:06 AM	Starkey Study Group	Scheduled		
1/21/2009 11:38:19 AM	Starkey Lunch Bunch	Scheduled		
1/22/2009 11:39:03 AM	Starkey Chess Club	Scheduled		the rook
1/23/2009 9:58:38 AM	Starkey Drop In	Meeting Goals	Math	measermnt
1/27/2009 8:01:45 AM	Starkey Study Group	Scheduled		
1/28/2009 11:37:26 AM	Starkey Lunch Bunch	Scheduled		
1/29/2009 11:38:51 AM	Starkey Chess Club	Scheduled		the knight
2/4/2009 11:36:26 AM	Starkey Lunch Bunch	Scheduled		
2/10/2009 8:01:35 AM	Starkey Study Group	Scheduled		
2/11/2009 11:36:15 AM	Starkey Lunch Bunch	Scheduled		
2/12/2009 11:39:29 AM	Starkey Chess Club	Scheduled		the bishop
2/13/2009 10:04:03 AM	Starkey Drop In	Reward For Grades	Math	blokus