

Characteristics of Effective Instruction

Student Centered Classrooms

- Teachers provide students with the opportunity to construct knowledge based on experiential, holistic, authentic, and challenging experiences
- Teachers intentionally create experiences that are organized, connected, cohesive
- Teachers encourage students to be metacognitive about their learning
- Teachers provide students with assessments that are centered on meaningful performances in real-world contexts

Teaching for Understanding

- Making learning a long term thinking-centered process
- Helping students make connections between prior knowledge and new knowledge
- Provide rich ongoing assessment of student learning
- Supporting learning with powerful representations
- Paying attention to developmental factors
- Teaching for transfer

Assessment for Learning

- Teachers plan the process for use during instruction
- Provide students with clear learning targets
- Students receive descriptive feedback from the teacher
- Provides students with a way to self-monitor their own learning

Rigor and Relevance

- Teachers provide students with challenging content that is significant to a topic
- Engage students in higher levels of thinking
- Help students build connections between the content and their personal lives
- Ask students to produce products that have value beyond the classroom

Teaching for Learner Differences

- High expectations for all students
- The ability to use assessment data to make instructional decisions to support the learning for all students
- The knowledge and skill to differentiate instructional practices to meet the needs of all students