

Challenge Lab:

The Next Step
Beyond Mastery!

A New Direction in Gifted Education



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The Challenge Lab: The Next Step Beyond 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 neatly
- 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 with classroom teachers for small groups during open lab

■ **Communication is the key!**

Why

- To add value to students' education
- To give classroom teachers smaller groups to reinforce concepts
- To support classroom curriculum 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 Objective 2
 - 3rd grade Famous Dead People
 - 2nd Grade addition double digits w/o regrouping





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)
*(*Texas Assessment of Knowledge & Skills)*

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
- ~5th Grade Horizons CHIPPS unit (**Cool Heroes, Inventors, Pioneer, & President Studies**)
- ~Poetry/Creative writing contests



CHALLENGE LAB PASS

Teacher: _____

Time to Return: _____

Student(s): _____

Reason for Lab Time:

____ Scheduled Group

____ Mastery of skill

____ Reward for work

____ Project _____

____ Other _____

Activity

Skill

____ Lang. Arts _____

____ Grammar _____

____ Writing _____

____ Extension _____

____ Math _____

____ Science _____

____ Soc. Studies _____

____ Research _____

____ Student Directed

Comments:

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____ Research _____

____ Student Directed

Comments:



Sample Lab Schedule 1 (All white blocks are OPEN LAB)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8:00	Weekly Planning Block (CLOSED)	(mentoring) open				
8:30						
9:00				(5 th Horizons Reading) 9:00-10:00)		
9:30				(5 th Horizons Reading)		
10:00			2 nd Grade Study Group	(5 th Horizons Math)		
10:30			2 nd Grade Study Group	(5 th Horizons Math)		
11:00	Teacher Lunch (1 st) 11:05-11:40	1 st Grade GT Lunch Bunch 11:05-11:40 (open)				
11:30		2 nd Grade GT Lunch Bunch 11:25-12:00 (open)	Teacher Lunch (2 nd) 11:25-12:00			
12:00	3 rd Grade GT Lunch Bunch 11:45-12:20 (open)	Teacher Lunch(4 th) 12:00-12:35	4 th Grade GT Lunch Bunch 12:00-12:35 (open)		Teacher Lunch (3 rd) 11:45-12:20	
12:30	5 th Grade GT Lunch Bunch 12:20-12:55 (open)			Teacher Lunch (K/ 5 th) 12:20-12:55		
1:00	special teacher requests	1 st Grade Study Group				
1:30	special teacher requests	1 st Grade Study Group				
2:00	4 th Grade Study Group	3 rd Grade Study Group	5 th Grade Study Group			
2:30	4 th Grade Study Group	3 rd Grade Study Group	5 th Grade Study Group			

