The 3 C's to Successful Common Core Transition

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Today's Speakers:

Blakeslee Detisch
Teacher
Sweetwater Schools

Blakeslee Detisch has been teaching fundamental classes for 17 years, and is currently teaching at Montgomery Middle School, located in California three miles from the Mexican border. She has received recognition for her dedication to special education from The Office of the President, the United States Attorney General's Office, and Dr. Ramon de la Fuente. She is the current teacher of the year at Montgomery Middle School as well as District Teacher of the Year in Sweetwater Union High School District. Detisch was diagnosed with an auditory processing disability, dyslexia, and ADHD as child, which further fuels her passion for helping all children realize their full potential.

Christine Fax-Huckaby
Special Education Academic Support Teacher
Sweetwater Schools

Christine Fax-Huckaby is a district special education academic support teacher for the Sweetwater Union High School District in California. She has worked in special education for 19 years and spent the first 15 years of her career in the classroom. Her outstanding leadership and approach to the education of all learners has led her to be a featured author in publications including *Scholastic Administrator*, *eSchool News,* and *SmartBlog on Education*.

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In the beginning… Special Educators were…

Isolated

Forgotten

Ignored

Misunderstood

Left Out

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Now we are…

- Partners/vital team members, respected, leaders, sought after to better understand special education, positive role models

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The 3 C's that have helped us prepare for Common Core:

Collaboration at its finest:

*1) **Common PLC's:** (Professional Learning Community)/Course-alike's (School & District-Wide)-weekly meetings with general education & special education:*

- Gen ED/Sped sharing their expertise on items (Everything Special Ed & tips, etc.)
- Gen ED/Sped collaborating to modify lessons and share teaching strategies to meet various learning styles. Teachers use Growth Mindset and UDL strategies to insure that all students needs are thought of at the outset of each lesson.
- Gen ED/Sped align assessments to CCSSS and SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) format.

Collaboration at its finest:

2) Cohorts & Zones:

- **COHORTS:** Subject-alike leads from each site are given time and a place to collaborate on professional development for their zones.

- **ZONES:** Subject-alike teachers from 3 sites are given time and a place to collaborate and get professional development from their cohort leads.

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Collaboration at its finest:

3) *Inclusion: Co-Teach and/or Collaboration at all sites:*

- **Co-Teach:** A general education and special education teacher collaborating on all aspects of teaching a subject area. The class and all of the responsibilities is completely shared by both educators, and they can rely on each other for the expertise each brings.

- **Collaboration:** A special education teachers collaborates with 1 or more general education teachers in a period to strategize, accommodate or provide resources.

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Three Classroom Models of Co-teaching used in Sweetwater:

Supportive Teaching

Parallel Teaching

Team Teaching

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Capacity Building at the Site Level:

1) *Site subject-area specialist (.2)-Cohort Leads*

- Every site has a lead teacher in each subject area (given a prep period and stipend) to coordinate professional development, assist with subject-area initiatives, provide class coverage for teachers to visit other classes, gather data, etc.

ENGLISH

Math

Science

Capacity Building at the Site Level:

2) District-wide learning management system and Google Drive.

Learning Management System (Canvas): Every site has access to a learning management system for use in their classes, as well as to keep current on district-wide initiatives.

Google Drive: Every teacher has access to Google Drive for sharing of information with students, within their sites and district-wide
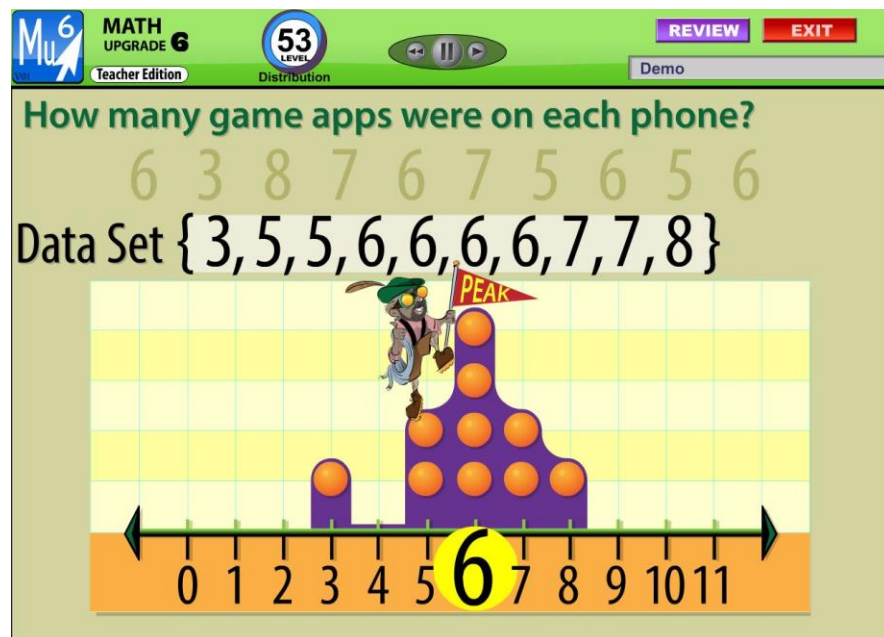
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Capacity Building at the Site Level:

3) IEP Leadership Team:

- Teachers from many sites in the district volunteer to collaborate on reviewing peer IEP's and supporting teachers in their zones to write compliant and superior IEP's, communicate with general education teachers to gather data and keep their sites informed of any changes in IEP requirements (such as common-core standards being used).

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Computers and Instruction, Utilizing Technology:

1) *Learning Upgrade:*

- Reading and Math Computer program which is interactive, engaging, user friendly, meets common core standards and has catchy tunes to help students remember the concepts. Students get rewarded for mastery and must master each concept before moving on to the next.

- Also provides excellent multiple reports that can be used for data collection, progress on goals, and evidence in IEP's.

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Computers and Instruction, Utilizing Technology:

2) READ/MATH 180:

- Programs with computer-based components which are research-based, interactive and provide great data collection and proof of growth and mastery.

Computers and Instruction, Utilizing Technology:

3) iPads-APPS

- Poplet, Explain Everything, Notability, graphic organizers, etc. Our 7th through 9th graders all have iPads with access to many apps which serve a wide variety of needs, including special needs (such as text to speech, speech to text, etc.). Many apps offer common core standards resources.

APPLICATION

Q & A

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Thank You!

Stay tuned for information on the next Thought Leadership Webinar Series installment in January 2016

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