



English Weekly Tidbits

Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Framework
Maryland School for the Deaf

ISSUE 1

MARCH 23, 2012

Dear Teachers,

Here is our first issue of English Weekly Tidbits. We want to thank Julie Tibbitt and Laura Riddell for being so gracious to let us copy most of their latest issue for this issue because that is exactly what we wanted to share with you, R/ELA people. Be assured we will be talking about other things in future issues.

Last Friday, we attended the informative conference hosted by Maryland Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students.

Michelle Shearer, *2011 National Teacher of the Year* (and a former MSD teacher!), gave the keynote address ("Teaching, Learning and the Power of the Human Factor.") She acknowledged many struggles that we teachers encounter on a daily basis, but remained very optimistic in her message. Essentially, she believes that making a human connection with your students will go a long way toward creating an all-inclusive environment for students regardless of background or ability. We love her quote, "Ultimately, the classroom is my mirror: The energy, determination, and sense of purpose my students display reflect what they see in me."

Dr. Denise DeCoste delivered a very informative and engaging lecture about Maryland's Initiatives for Universal Design for Learning. Currently, she is the governor-appointed chair of the Task Force to Explore the Incorporation of the Principles of Universal Design for Learning into the Education Systems in Maryland. In her presentation, Dr. DeCoste repeatedly emphasized the importance of "student choices", "flexible options in teaching", "planning from the start, not retrofitting", "all means all". She also shared feedback from teachers who have started practicing UDL, and a common positive aspect was that "everyday UDL" reduces time spent on managing behavior, allows students to access needed accommodations without stigma, and even covers more content!

Brenda Simmons Stephenson gave a lecture, followed by a break-out session, related to Differentiated Instruction. She is the head of the Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at the University of Tennessee.

We have included a nutshell of the information presented at the UDL conference on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. Please see either of us if you would like to learn more about this conference.

Enjoy your week!

Bonnie Kramer and Elizabeth Reed

R/ELA Curriculum Coordinators

Columbia and Frederick Campus

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Ideas for this newsletter are always welcome!

Universal Design for Learning: Maryland Initiatives

As presented by **Dr. Denise C. DeCoste**, Educational Consultant/lecturer at the *Universal Design for Learning: Differentiating Instruction for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students* conference hosted by the Maryland State Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students on March 16, 2012.

Application of the 3 UDL Principles

Multiple and Flexible Means of Representing Information

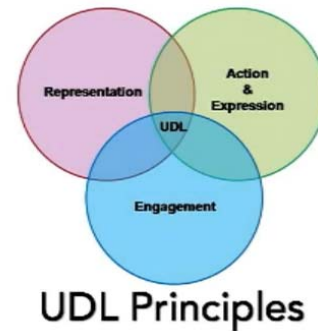
Pictures, highlighting, vocabulary and background knowledge support, read aloud, text-to-speech, captioned videos.

Multiple and Flexible Means of Action and Expression

Graphic organizers, outlines, multiple levels of scaffolding, vocabulary word banks to prompt writing ideas, spelling support, students showing what they know with graphic displays, prerecorded performance.

Multiple and Flexible Means of Engagement

Varying levels of challenge and support, tie work to real-world examples, choices whenever possible, self-assessment and reflection.



UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING IN MARYLAND

Currently, the MSDE is addressing UDL as part of:

- ⇒ The Educator Effectiveness Academies
- ⇒ The development of common core curriculum and resources
- ⇒ The Integration of UDL into new hybrid professional development courses
- ⇒ The PARRC consortium to develop accessible assessments
- ⇒ Maryland Learning Links website

Maryland Senate Bill 467/House Bill 59 (<http://udl4maryland.webs.com/>)

"The Maryland Down syndrome Advocacy Coalition (MDAC) is pleased to announce the passage of the Universal Design for Learning bill (HB 59/SB 467) in Annapolis. The UDL bill is now "enrolled" and is awaiting signature from the Governor. This bill, entitled "Task Force to Explore the Incorporation of the Principles of Universal Design for Learning into the Education Systems in Maryland," is the first of its kind in the nation, reinforcing Maryland's reputation as a progressive state that constantly strives for excellence in education. This bill will establish a statewide Task Force of stakeholders that will make recommendations related to UDL implementation in Maryland."

Direct Instruction Resources

As shared by **Brenda Simmons Stephensen**, Lecturer at *Universal Design for Learning: Differentiating Instruction for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students* conference hosted by the Maryland State Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students on March 16, 2012.

Differentiation Strategies

Acceleration

Curriculum Compacting

Flexible Grouping

Literature Circles

Mentoring

Contracting

Independent Study

Telescoping

Post-holing

Learning Centers

Tired Instruction

Tic-Tac-Toe Choices

Differentiated Assessment

Brain Compatible Learning

Collaborative Learning

Project Based Learning

Inquiry Based Learning

Creative Problem Solving

Websites with information about Differentiation

<http://www.cast.org>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVRYS8YyYA&feature=related>

<http://www.differentiatedinstruction.net/index.html>

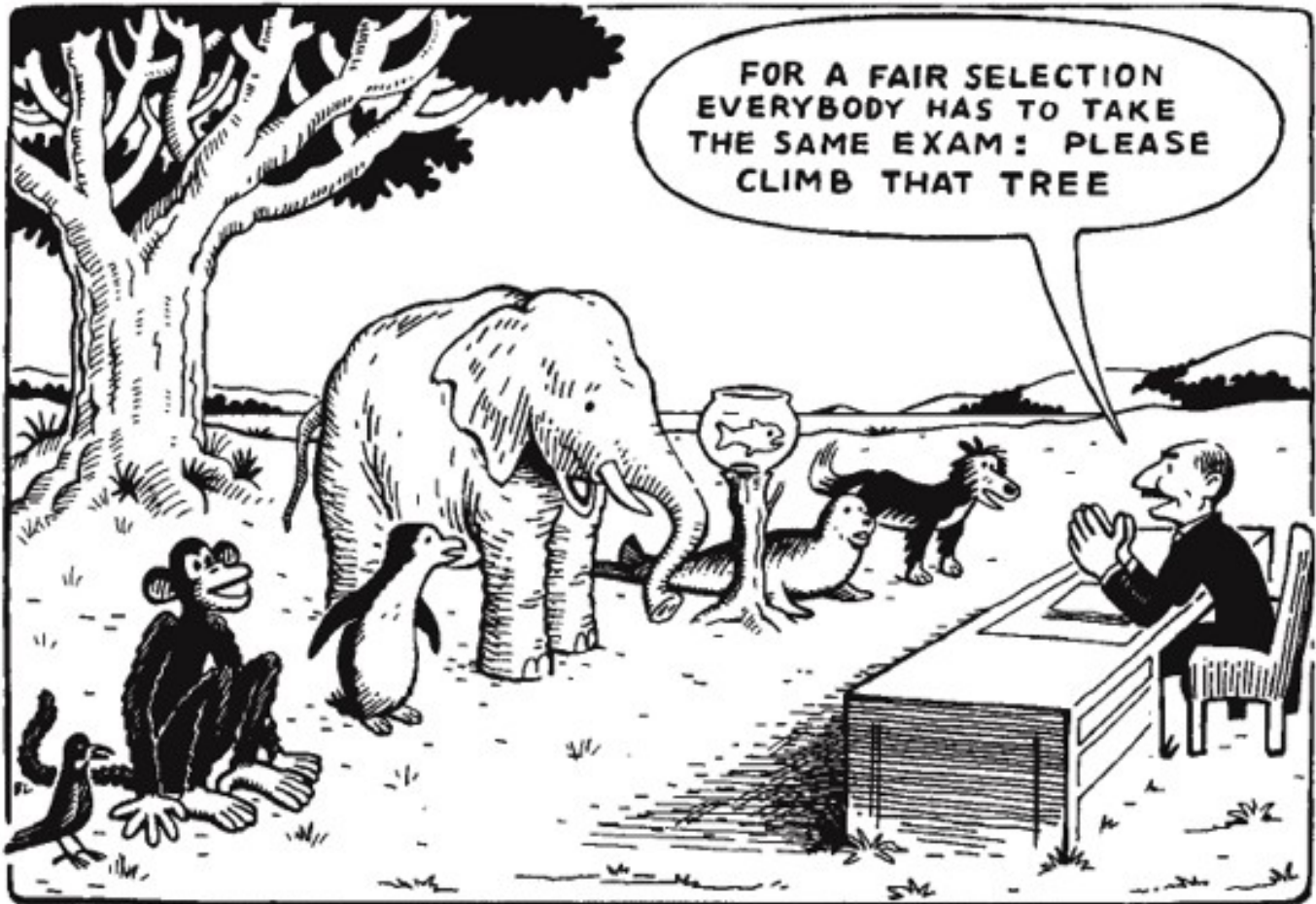
<http://www.sde.com/teacher-resources.asp>

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/di.htm>

<http://www.ascd.org/cms/index.cfm?TheViewID=1000>

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/1999tomlinson/1999tomlinson toc.html>

A Humorous Look: Why we need UDL



Source: simmonsatshowcase.wikispaces.com

You MUST Bookmark This!

Sue Hill shared this link. Thank you, Sue! You rock! :)

<http://www.readinga-z.com/search/ccstandards.php?grade=K6>

Reading A-Z recognizes the importance of the Common Core Standards. They have correlated our materials to the Common Core Standards to help you find resources to teach students.