


The Husky Challenge
Challenging Exceptional Learners in the
Regular Education Classroom

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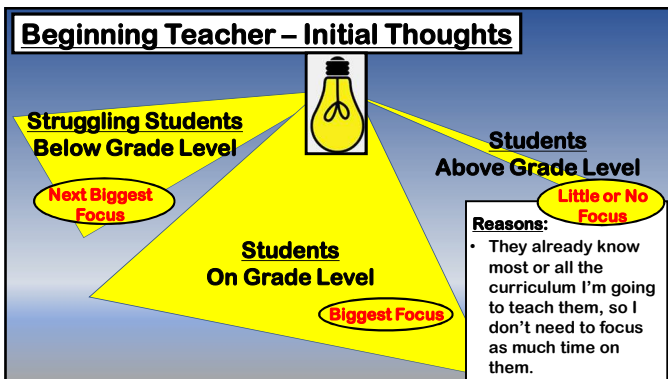
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Agenda:

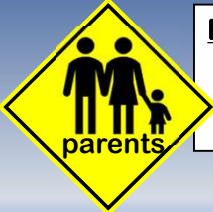
- My journey towards advocating for challenging gifted and high-achieving students in the regular education classroom.
- Creation of “The Husky Challenge” and how it works.
- Timeline of what I do to identify and challenge students.
- Video chat with a past parent and student who have been a part of “The Husky Challenge.”

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A Changing Mindset...




Parent/Teacher Conferences
Noticed a trend in a certain question most parents of gifted or high-achieving students would ask...

What are you doing to challenge my son or daughter?

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A Changing Mindset...



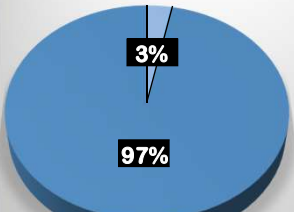
Professional Development

- Regular education teachers are responsible for challenging all students in the classroom.
- No matter what level a student is at when they enter your classroom, they should make at least a year of academic growth.

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A Changing Mindset...

Challenging Student Learners



On average, high-achieving elementary students spend approximately 97% of their school day with the regular education teacher and 3% with the gifted support teacher.

Opened my eyes to understanding that gifted and high-achieving students needed challenged by regular education teachers!

Gifted Support Teacher (1 hour per week)
 Regular Education Teacher (31 hours per week)

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Who Needs Challenged? ...Gathering Info.

← **AUG/SEPT** →

**Transition Plans...
Transition Meetings**

Very few students come into my classroom with a GIEP. So how do I know which students need challenged?

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Who Needs Challenged? ...Gathering Info.

← **AUG/SEPT** **OCT** →

Establishing Strong Rapport

Take the time to get to know your students really well. This helps students build trust... which leads to them truly starting to show you what they can do.

Entire 1st Quarter: observing, analyzing, and building rapport with my students. Keep track of strengths, weaknesses, and interests. Who needs challenged in the classroom?

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Who Needs Challenged? ...Gathering Info.

← **OCT** →

Gifted Support Teacher

- 1st Grade -

The district gifted support teacher pushes into all 1st grade classes once per week. Works with 1st grade teachers to start identifying high-achieving students.

- 1st Grade -

The district gifted support teacher gives a K-Bit test to those students who stand out academically.

- 2nd Grade -

October – Scores are shared with 2nd grade teachers. K-Bit scores of 115+ in verbal and/or nonverbal are a strong indicator that a student needs challenged.

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Who Needs Challenged? ...Communication

← **NOV** →

Parent/Teacher Conferences

✓ —

✓ —

✓ —

✓ —

Current academic progress...

The need for more challenging activities...

My plan for how I'm going to challenge them...

The Husky Challenge... explain it and they take a copy home to look over.

9 out of 10 times: I've already answered the #1 concern the parents had for their child: How am I going to challenge them?

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Who Needs Challenged? ...Communication

← **NOV** →

Invitation

Dear [Student Name],

Since school started, you've shown me that you excel in all subject areas. You work hard and getting good grades is important to you. As your teacher, it's a goal of mine to help those students who excel challenge. That's why you're a student who would benefit from more challenging activities each day.

For those reasons, you've been selected to take part in the Husky Challenge Program which offers you various different challenges each week. The program begins your 1st and 2nd trimesters and continues through the 3rd trimester.

I'll be holding an after-school meeting next week to get you started and familiar with the Husky Challenge Program. During this time, you'll have the opportunity to ask many of the challenges and programs, ask questions, and challenge each other to them. Please be ready by 4:15 on the date below that you'll work with [Student Name's] schedule and return by [Insert Date]. A note will be sent home soon with the chosen date(s).

Congratulations on being selected and I'm excited to see how you challenge yourself the next time school starts!

Ms. Young

Please fill out and return by [Insert Date].

Name: _____

Circle any dates/times below that will work to stay after school to learn about the Husky Challenge Program.

[Insert Date] 3:45-4:45pm

[Insert Date] 3:45-4:45pm

[Insert Date] 3:45-4:45pm

Parent Signature _____

Inviting Students

- Discuss the Husky Challenge with the selected students.
- Pick a few available after-school dates to train them on the Husky Challenge.
- Send an invitation for them to participate.
- HUGE Excitement!

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Introducing... The Husky Challenge

← **NOV** through **MAY** →

- ★ Folded booklet containing 16 challenging activities.
- ★ Goal is to complete any 8 activities within two weeks. (color in a star)
- ★ Most activities are completed at school. Some are available to do at home.
- ★ Become a "Husky STAR" if they can color in five stars.

The booklet shows a calendar from November to May with a star for each day. It includes a section for 'Challenge yourself' with a 'prodigy' logo and a section for 'Teacher Initials' and 'Log into technology and watch 3 Minutes'.

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The Husky Challenge... continued

← NOV ————— through ————— MAY →

- ★ Activities are flexible & independent. Student chooses how to challenge him/herself.
- ★ Activities change from year to year based on what's available for the classroom/district.
- ★ Allow students and parents to give suggestions on possible challenges.

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Diagram of a Husky Challenge

- Reading & Math Goals:** Customizable for each student.
- Husky Star Progress:** color a star for 8 or more challenges complete in a week.
- #1: Choose your own challenge...** Amazing what they show me they can do!
- #3: Mystery Doug - A weekly series of Science videos** based on questions students submit.
- Student info, initials, dates, and teacher initials.**
- #2: Play Prodigy...** adaptive math game with Pokemon-style characters. (free)

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Diagram of a Husky Challenge

- #4, #5: AR -** Choose an on-level book and score 85%+ on an AR test. (license)
- #6: Osmo -** interact with many activities. (purchase, need iPad).
- #7: Look up an unknown word in the dictionary.** (free)
- #8: Quizmo -** hundreds of multiple choice questions on many subjects. (purchase)
- #9-#10: Study Island -** PSSA practice of reading and math content.
- #11: Math Help -** mentor a peer by helping with a math problem.
- #12: Math Shark -** Play games or practice math facts in +, -, x, / (purchase)
- #13: Rocket Math -** Math fluency in multiplication and division. (license)

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Husky Challenge

Diagram of a

#14: Brief research on something you wonder about (free)

#15: Apps that support reading (choose one) (free or paid purchase).

#16: Apps that support math or logical thinking. (choose one) (free- or paid purchase)

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Letting Go of the Reigns:

In the PAST: Every single student had to complete all the assignments I handed out... no matter their ability.

DIFFERENTIATION

Those who need extra practice and support... (Comfort Zone)

Those who need challenged outside the regular curriculum... (Outside their comfort zone)

Mix of

NOW...

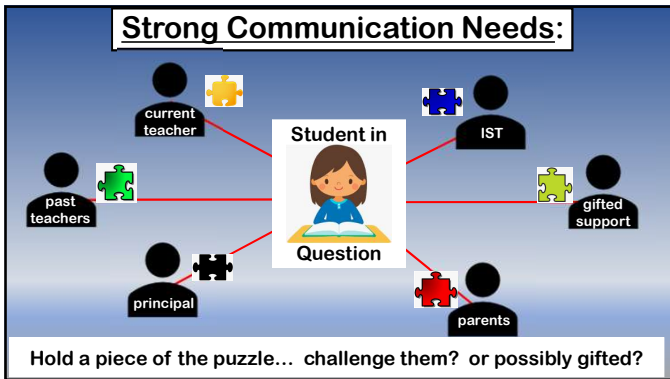
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Is His or Her Ability Being Masked?

autism, selective mutism, behavior problems

Important to Think:
These are just a few issues that might skew academic data. What might their academic achievement look like without these problems? Are there solutions to help unmask some of these problems?

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Possibility of Gifted?

End of 1st Qtr.

End of 2nd Qtr.

End of 3rd Qtr.

- Fill out IST screening forms with requested data, collect classroom evidence, and discuss at screening meetings at the end of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters. **Informed decision:** test? Wait a little? Not test?
- Be on the Lookout: any quirks?
JT Story Mara Story

Instructional Support Level One Screening Form

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Classroom: Academic Behavioral Emotional Instructional/Class of Peer

Reason for Referring: Easy on Teacher Unique Gift Candidate Permission to Enroll

Development Date: (4th grade or older in 1st year) 4th Grade 5th

Behavior of Student	Instructional Intervention	Level of Concern	Recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> Disruption	<input type="checkbox"/> One-on-one or Teacher	Reading _____	<input type="checkbox"/> This work
<input type="checkbox"/> Inattention	<input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Plan	Math _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Research
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Effort	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Review of Text	Word Work _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment
<input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent	<input type="checkbox"/> Workbooks/Activities	Writing _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment
<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty Following Rules	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily/Weekly Work	Science _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment
<input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive	<input type="checkbox"/> Class/Individual	Art _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment
<input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive	<input type="checkbox"/> This Class/for Others	PE/MS _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			

Classroom Teacher: _____ Date: _____

IST Services: _____

Additional Support: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Thinking About Next Year...

- Fill out a transition plan form on what worked well. Discussed at transition meetings during first week of school the following year.
- Reflect: What's worked well? Any changes? Additions? Deletions?

HUSKY CHALLENGE

ROLLING RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM/SPECIAL EDUCATION
TRANSITION PLAN

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Classroom: _____

Reason for Referring: _____

Development Date: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

IST Services: _____

Additional Support: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Video Chat...

A former parent who embraced "The Husky Challenge" program to share her thoughts.

Video Call to Georgia




A former student who has participated in "The Husky Challenge" to share her thoughts.

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Final Thoughts & Questions

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Popularity of "The Husky Challenge" among students I feel don't need challenged... I ask them to prove to me why they think I need to challenge them more.



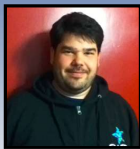
QUESTIONS

All documents including "The Husky Challenge" are uploaded on the PAGE website. Encouraged to download and edit it to make it your own.

Since first sharing this with educators... I have received several emails sharing how they use it in their district. If you do use it, I'd love to see what yours is like!

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Contact Information



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