 Bright Ideas for Tackling Challenges

Gaffney, SC

June 2017

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| **Challenge #1:**  Appropriate placement of students | **Bright Ideas:**   * Meet with the principals of the feeder schools in the spring to ask for recommendations for upcoming 6th graders. Provide screening guidelines – at least 3 data sources including the state assessment, a reading assessment and teacher recommendation. * Stick to guidelines of the program – 4th grade level and above will receive Xtreme and students below 4th will receive Read Naturally. * Meet with the counselors to discuss placement guidelines. * No new students placed in Xtreme after the first 3 weeks of school. * Corrections in placement (if needed) will also be made during the first 3 weeks of school. |
| **Challenge #2**  Pacing | **Bright Ideas:**   * Review the lessons a week in advance. * Use timers – especially for warm-ups. * Create an electronic flip chart that aligns with the daily lesson so that the teacher can refer to smart board rather than notebook. * Make sure students are following the ACHIEVE expectations, especially during transitions to move smoothly and quickly from one activity to another. * Read scripted manual and plan individually before lesson. Highlight the sections that you might tend to overlook during the lesson. This will prevent having to go back and readdress issues. * Have all the materials organized and ready to go at the beginning of the class. |
| **Challenge #3:**  Preparation and Planning Time | Bright Ideas:   * Push-in time could be waived to allow for more planning time for Xtreme. * Work with each other to divide tasks and share materials. * Request an afternoon release each semester to collaborate and work together. |
| **Challenge #4:**  Organization of Classroom Materials | Bright Ideas:   * The materials in the teacher notebook can be rearranged. * Make copies of students’ passages and keep in labeled notebooks or color-coded files. * Designate areas for classroom novels and binders. Get extra shelves if necessary. * Put the reader’s and coach’s roles in small stand-up frames to display during paired practice. * Keep a laminated blank sheet of paper and a dry erase marker in the front of the students’ notebooks. These can be used for individual whiteboard activities. |