 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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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