

# Grades K-5 FOCUS Enrichment Program

## Focus Enrichment Program Structure

In 2019-2020, the three components of the program are:

- 1. Daily FOCUS period (30 minutes/day per the school schedule)**
  - ◆ All Students
  - ◆ No new learning during this period
  - ◆ Focus on needs, including support services
  - ◆ Recognition that all students benefit from enrichment and/or extension
  
- 2. Weekly STEAM Lab Whole-class Lessons**
  - ◆ interdisciplinary enrichment experiences taught by the enrichment teacher
  
- 3. Thematic Units for Selected Students Provided by the Enrichment Teacher**
  - ◆ In year one, grades 3-5
  - ◆ Three-week cycles, 3 or 4 times/year during the FOCUS period
  - ◆ For these weeks, *in addition* to what already exists at the grade level during the FOCUS period

Teachers also use **Differentiated Instruction** to address a variety of student needs, including a need for extension and/or enrichment across the subject areas. Differentiated Instruction is responsive teaching. It is a research-based, high impact teaching practice that recognizes and responds to the many ways learners can vary, including ability, attitude, interest, knowledge base, skill level, experiential background, and culture. Differentiated Instruction requires teachers to intentionally seek to know who their students are and how they learn best. Based on this knowledge, teachers tailor instruction to optimize understanding. Teachers can differentiate through content, process, and/or product according to students' readiness levels, interests, and learning profiles. When they do so, instruction is more successful and effective.

Pre and post-tests, reading assessments, writing rubrics, performance tasks, samples of student work, observations, and anecdotal records may identify student strengths and thusly, appropriate next steps. Student and parent surveys also serve to provide additional information to identify areas of high interest and strength.