

Voices Academy Classroom Best Practices

Student Engagement

- ✓ Students on-task
- ✓ Students actively participating (listening, reading, writing, discussing, thinking, applying, practicing)
- ✓ Students asking and answering a range of questions (factual to higher order thinking)

Standards-Based

- ✓ Evidence of standards-based lessons in room (written and orally stated)
- ✓ Standards-based student work posted
- ✓ Students know what they are learning
- ✓ Alignment between grade levels
- ✓ Grade Level Work

Individualized Instruction

- ✓ Associate teacher supports
- ✓ Small group and 1 on 1 work
- ✓ Personalized learning programs
- ✓ Use of assessments to respond to data

Direct Instruction

- ✓ Mini lessons
- ✓ Teacher explicit instruction
- ✓ Guided practice and feedback
- ✓ Independent work with small groups

Classroom Environment

- ✓ Word Wall
- ✓ Student Data Wall
- ✓ Cooperative seating (desk clusters, carpets)
- ✓ Teacher/student co-created lesson resources posted (rather than commercial materials)
- ✓ Evidence of the “joy factor”
- ✓ College Wall
- ✓ Voices Values posted
- ✓ Routines and Procedures posted for reference
- ✓ Student and Teacher Relationships: Respectful and Nurturing

Second Language Learner Support

- ✓ Language and vocabulary objectives
- ✓ Cooperative learning groupings
- ✓ Activate and build prior knowledge
- ✓ Hands-on, real materials, manipulatives (learning tools), pictures, illustrations
- ✓ Print-rich environment
- ✓ Structured language practice routines

Structured Literacy includes:

Phonemic Awareness and Phonics
Accountable Independent Reading
Writing connected to reading
Fluency practice
Vocabulary development
Word Recognition
Comprehension work
Oral language development
Alignment to 3 CCSS literacy shifts

Math includes:

Automaticity/fluency practice
Conceptual Development
Guided practice
Independent practice
Application practice
Alignment to 3 mathematical CCSS shifts

