Accommodations & Modifications for the Inclusive Classroom

Leandra Juarez & Kara Tomaszewski
Introduction & Contact Information

- Leandra Juarez
  - Director of Burke Scholar Program
  - 847-779-8612
  - ljuarez@nddons.org

- Kara Tomaszewski
  - Burke Scholars Program Teacher
  - 847-779-8731
  - ktomaszewski@nddons.org
Burke Scholars Program

- 8-10 students with mild to moderate cognitive disabilities
- 2 special education teachers
- Team of inclusion teachers
- ½ inclusion & ½ special education
- 2 levels for English and math classes
- Collaboration with inclusion teachers to make accommodations/modifications
- Extra-curricular involvement
Audience Survey

- Administrators? Teachers? Parents?
- What is an accommodation?
- What is a modification?
- Anyone already doing accommodations or modifications in their classroom?
What is an accommodation?

- Changes in the way tasks are presented that allow children with a disability to complete the same assignments as other children.
- DOES NOT alter the content of assignments, give students an unfair advantage, or change what is measured.
- Gives students the opportunity to learn and show what they know without being hindered by their disability.
- Can be made for ANY student.
- DOES NOT alter what a student is expected to learn.
- Changes to the classroom structure (organization and instruction) to allow students to participate.
What is a modification?

- Changes in the course of study, standards, expectations, and/or student response in order for a student with a more significant disability to access the curriculum
- DOES alter or lower the standard or expectation of the course or assignment
- May create a parallel curriculum for students with disabilities
- Alters what students are expected to learn in order to allow them to interact meaningfully and productively with other students in the class
- May change the instructional level, content, or assessment criteria
Accommodation v. Modification Game

- Game
Examples of Accommodations

- Audio recordings
- Larger font
- Record lesson
- Note taker/guided notes
- Oral responses
- Calculator
- Spell check
- Test location
- Extended time

- Preferential seating
- Breaks
- Sensory tool
- Fewer homework problems
- eBook/textbook
- Typing/handwriting
- Graphic organizers
- Test format
Examples of Modifications

- Change in reading level
- Different textbook
- Reworded questions in simpler language
- Different questions
- Pass/Fail
- Grading expectations
- Change in workload
- Alternate project
- Exemptions
Accommodations v. Modifications

- Accommodations **LEVEL** the playing field.
- Modifications **CHANGE** the field you’re playing on.

- Accommodations change **HOW** you learn.
- Modifications change **WHAT** you learn.

- The use of accommodations or modifications should enable the child to demonstrate progress.
Saint Project Activity

- Get in groups of 2-3 and look over an assignment that was given to us for a freshman religion class.

- Brainstorm ways that you might MODIFY this assignment.

- Then, see how we modified the assignment.
How to Modify

- Consider student
  - Strengths
  - Weaknesses
  - Academic grade level
- Collaborate with teacher
  - Original materials/assignment
  - Areas of unit to focus on
- Use resources
  - Lower level of textbooks
  - Internet resources
  - Individualized modification
Modification Tips

- **Layout**
  - Space
  - Size
  - Font

- **Content**
  - Vocabulary
  - Main ideas/concepts
  - Length
  - Simplify

- **Grading**
  - Pass/Fail
  - Exemption
  - Conversion
  - Separate gradebook

- **Avoid**
  - True/False
  - Too many options
  - All or none of the above
  - Trick questions
Modification Samples

- Compare original assignments and modified assignments
Questions???

Thank you! 😊