## DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION is a way to reach students with different learning styles and different abilities. Many people recognize that each person prefers different learning styles and techniques. Everyone has a mix of learning styles.  Research shows us that each learning style uses different parts of the brain. By involving more of the brain during learning, we remember more of what we learn.

**The Seven Learning Styles:**

* **Visual (spatial):**You prefer using pictures, images, and spatial understanding.
* **Aural (auditory-musical):** You prefer using sound and music.
* **Verbal (linguistic):** You prefer using words, both in speech and writing.
* **Physical (kinesthetic):** You prefer using your body, hands and sense of touch.
* **Logical (mathematical):** You prefer using logic, reasoning and systems.
* **Social (interpersonal):** You prefer to learn in groups or with other people.
* **Solitary (intrapersonal):** You prefer to work alone and use self-study.

**What does it look like to address different learning styles?**

Classroom instruction is given in a variety of modalities, including verbal instruction, visual cues, and even music or movement. In turn, students are given opportunities to express their understanding using a variety of styles. For example, after doing research students not only write about what they have found but also have opportunities to speak about their findings and to use visual aids to bring their point home. This is also true in math. Students have the opportunity to show work by using numbers, pictures, and words. In regards to groupings, students are given opportunities to work alone, in pairs, and in groups. By working together, students engage in meaningful discussions and get to observe and learn from one another. Choice making is an important part of differentiation, from making choices about what topics they want to study to what books they want to read.

**What does it look like to address different abilities?** The workshop format embeds multi leveled challenges into each topic. For example, in writing some students may be focusing on strong leads and organizing their thinking into paragraphs, while others have mastered that skill and have moved on to expanding their character development. In math, some students may be working on mastering accurately a single method of computation, while others have moved on to solving the same problem using multiple methods. In reading, students read their "just right books" for their independent reading which is calibrated to their individual reading level. For instructional reading in the classroom, students are exposed to a wide range of texts and reading challenges, so there is something for everyone to learn.

**What does your child discover each day?** All children are entirely unique, with their own sets of gifts and challenges. It is our hope that they feel both nurtured and challenged here at school, and that they leave each day feeling that they had fun, put forth their best effort, and discovered something new!