

# What Really Matters in Teaching-The Students

Getting to know your students & what  
makes them tick...





# What is responsive teaching?

The ability to recognize that "like all humans, students are looking for a sense of their own meanings, roles, and possibilities."

(Tomlinson, McTighe)

# Categories of Student Variance & Implications for Learning

(Figure 2.1, Integrating Differentiation + Understanding by Design - Tomlinson, McTighe)

Category of Student Variance	Contributors to the category	Some implications for learning
Biology	Gender Neurological “wiring” for learning Abilities Disabilities Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•High &amp; low abilities exist in all endeavors.</li> <li>•Students will learn in different modes.</li> <li>•Students learn on different timetables.</li> <li>•Some parameters for learning are somewhat defined, but others are malleable.</li> </ul>
Degree of privilege	Economic status    Language Race                      Experience Culture Support System	Breadth and depth of student experience influence learning.
Positioning for learning	Adult Models            Temperament Trust                      Interpersonal skills Self-concept Motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parents who actively commend education positively affect their children’s learning.</li> <li>•Trust, positive self-concept, positive temperament, and motivation to learn impact learning.</li> </ul>
Preferences	Interests Learning preferences Preferences for individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Student interests vary across topics and subjects.</li> <li>•Students vary in preference for how they take in information.</li> <li>•Students relate to teachers differently.</li> </ul>

# Why does it matter?

- Attending to student interest/readiness/environment...
- Contributes to student energy toward learning
- Builds a context for meaningful learning
- Builds bridges between student background and content
- Allows for academic growth
- Enlists student motivation
- Enables efficiency of learning

# Finding patterns of instruction that serve multiple needs



# Responsive Teaching Methods...

- Find ways to get to know students in different ways
- Incorporate small-group teaching into daily or weekly teaching
- Learn to teach to the high end
- Offer more ways to explore/express learning
- Regularly use informal assessments to monitor student understanding

# Responsive Teaching Methods...

- Teach in multiple ways
- Allow working alone or with peers
- Use clear rubrics that coach for quality
- Cultivate a taste for diversity

Start early...evaluate often.

What do they know?

What can they do?

What do they bring to the table?