



SKILL GROUPS - Grades 5-8

Rationale:

The faculty has identified the need to further differentiate instruction based upon the students' specific needs. Although we address these needs in specific curricular areas, not all students are being allowed sufficient time to practice skills or apply skills in new areas. As a result of this, we have scheduled two class periods per week for Skill Group Time.

Objectives:

- To further meet the academic needs of individual students.
- To provide time each week for students to work on specific skills at their individual level.

Process:

The students in grades 5-8 will be working in small groups with one of five teachers on activities designed to meet their specific needs.



“**Skills Stretch**” groups will be working in multi-grade groups on a project-based learning experience that will allow them to apply skills learned in a new setting. These projects will last approximately one quarter. A weekly assessment will be completed by the Skill Group teacher and forwarded to the homeroom teacher. The assessments will be sent home at the end of the quarter.



“**Skill Building**” groups will also be working in multi-grade groups based on a weekly assessment of skill areas needing additional practice. Students will be regrouped weekly based on teacher recommendations. Skills in Core curricular areas will be addressed and new concepts will be practiced with additional activities. **Language Arts and Mathematics will be the main focus.** This will not be homework remediation time. A weekly assessment will be completed by the Skill Group teacher and forwarded to the homeroom teacher. These assessments will come home quarterly.

Grouping Criteria:

Initial: Students who have a Core Total on last year's ITBS testing of 66 percentile or above will be working in Skills Stretch groups. Skill Building groups will be comprised of those who have the need for more practice in their skills.

As the year proceeds: Students' classroom grades, skill group assessments, and changes in Standardized Tests scores will be evaluated by the teaching staff at the end of each quarter. Grouping changes will then be determined based on the changes noted in student achievement.