

# Differentiated Learning for High Ability

Teacher Trained in Gifted Education

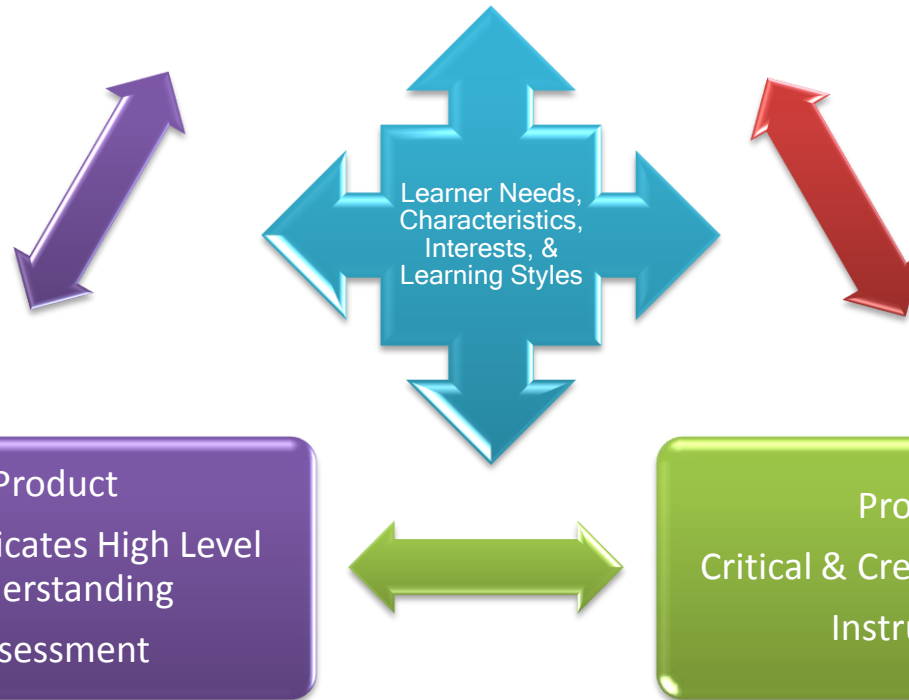
Content  
Accelerated & Enriched  
Curriculum

Learner Needs,  
Characteristics,  
Interests, &  
Learning Styles

Product  
Communicates High Level  
Understanding  
Assessment

Process  
Critical & Creative Thinking  
Instruction

Learning with Other Students with Advanced Potential



## **The environment that nurtures the development of advanced potential is differentiated in at least 5 ways**

- **Learner** - learner needs and characteristics influence all areas of learning
  - The pace is appropriate for those who rapidly assimilate content, but also allows for reflective responses
  - Opportunities exist for the student to pursue areas of in-depth interest
  - Consideration is made for student level of intensity and sensitivity
- **Environment**
  - The teacher - licensed or in-depth training in how to alter the learning experience specifically for gifted learners
  - The classmates - achievement gains are the greatest when gifted learners are grouped with ability peers and provided differentiated curriculum and instruction.
- **Curriculum (Content)**
  - What is taught - best determined at the district level in a Scope and Sequence or using curriculum mapping
  - This includes the subjects and topics to be taught
  - This will be above grade level and/or in greater depth - accelerated and enriched
  - The materials used will be at a more advanced reading level and level of complexity
  - Interdisciplinary when possible
  - Whole-to-part approach for a conceptual focus
- **Instruction (Process)**
  - This is how the content is presented
  - This includes differentiation based upon different levels of previous knowledge; it also may be further differentiated by student interests, or learning styles
  - This includes activities primarily directed at the highest cognitive levels of thinking
  - This emphasizes problem solving and extending learning in creative ways
  - The pace of instruction is faster than for average learners
  - Students use information to construct their own knowledge and to make connections across disciplines
  - Student develop the approaches and habits of experts in the field of study
- **Assessment (Product)**
  - Pre-assessment for prior knowledge is included so that instruction can be planned accordingly
  - Products will demonstrate the student's ability to communicate effectively in oral, written, and visual formats
  - Assessments are authentic and for real audiences when possible
  - The level of understanding should demonstrate the highest levels of thinking
  - Products will demonstrate problem solving and extension of content