Extension Menus

Strategies for Differentiating the Curriculum
What is an Extension Menu?

- An extension menu is an array of independent learning activities presented in a ‘choice’ or ‘menu’ format to provide students with options for extending or enriching the essential curriculum.
Why use Extension Menus?

- Enrich or extend the essential curriculum
- Challenge the abilities of highly able students
- Provide alternative activities that address the differing abilities, interests, or learning styles of students
- Allow choice
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use the Publisher Wizard to create a birthday card</th>
<th>Create a business card</th>
<th>Make 5 study cards for the basic toolbars and tasks on Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create a board game with questions about Publisher</td>
<td>Create an Earth day flyer promoting a clean-up event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make a magazine cover with your picture on the front cover</td>
<td>Import a template from the Microsoft on-line site to create a project</td>
<td>You Decide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create a Timeline with 15 important events</td>
<td>Draw or paint a portrait; add famous quotes</td>
<td>Write or select songs to illustrate 6 major events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Answer 3 Unanswered ???; use Internet to research</td>
<td><strong>FAMOUS PERSON RESEARCH</strong></td>
<td>Write a poem about your person’s life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read a biography, article and story; compare</td>
<td>Create a Frame using 4 icons + an illustration</td>
<td>Compare/Contrast person to 2 others living at different time</td>
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</tbody>
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Advantages of Extension Menus

- Strategy spans all curricular areas
- Can target specific learning activities for an individual student or small group
- Allows student choice as well as challenge
- Students’ choices reveal their interests, abilities and learning styles
- Promotes higher level thinking skills
- Encourages the development of independent thinking
Classroom Uses of Extension Menus

- Follow-up activity
- Culminating activity
- Anchoring activity *(defined by Carol Ann Tomlinson as, “meaningful work done individually and silently”) especially when children first begin a class or when they finish assigned work*
- Learning center
- Independent activity