Portfolios That Serve a Specific Purpose

Teachers, parents, and decision makers are becoming more aware of the value of reviewing student work samples, listening to what students say about their work, and reading their reflections about what they have learned. *The Portfolio Connection: Student Work Linked to Standards* (ISBN 1-57517-439-1) provides an outline for educators to assess students’ understanding of key concepts, offers a means for differentiating the process and products students create, and allows for recognition of individual differences. Burke, Fogarty, and Belgrad encourage teachers and parents to focus on students’ abilities to create quality products and performances. The authors offer practical advice and user-friendly strategies to collect and correlate portfolio pieces to meet standards; develop checklists and rubrics to monitor student progress; integrate technology into the portfolio process; and conduct student-led conferences. For more information, contact Skylight Professional Development, 2626 S. Clearbrook Dr., Arlington Heights, IL 60005, (800) 348-4474, http://www.skylightedu.com.

Enrich the Writing Experience

*Teaching Young Writers: Strategies That Work* (ISBN 0-439-26083-3) offers teachers and their students strategies to ease into the writing process. The author demonstrates and explains with step-by-step lessons how to introduce and implement print-rich rooms, writing tools, interactive writing, journal and poetry writing, and rubrics to guide the writing process. Values of self-expression, conventions of language in the context of meaningful writing, and communities of confident writers are just a few of the topics that are addressed in Schaefer’s work. Each chapter ends with suggestions for ways teachers can effectively inform parents of writing goals and the progress of their child. For more information, contact Scholastic, 2931 E. McCarry St., Jefferson City, MO 65102, (800) 724-6727.

An Exploration Along the Silk Road

*Marco Polo for Kids: His Marvelous Journey* (ISBN 1-55652-377-7) tells the incredible story of the 17-year-old Venetian, weaving in the history and traditions of each country he visited during his Asiatic journeys. Along the way, they will absorb valuable lessons about cultural diversity and ancient civilizations. Fascinating sidebars explore topics—from the discovery of Mohenjodaro to the secrets of Qin Emperor’s tomb. Myths, languages, festivals, and the natural history of animals, invite inquiry and instigate higher level thinking and interaction. Janis Herbert presents the text in a way that allows teachers to augment lessons in history, literature, geometry, and other subjects, as well as integrate multiculturalism into the curriculum. Historical paintings, a glossary of terms, biographies of historical figures, and a list of related Web sites round out this comprehensive book. For more information, contact Chicago Review Press, 814 N. Franklin St., Chicago, IL 60610, (312) 337-0747, http://www.ipgbook.com.
Respect Unique Learner Characteristics

Offering a new perspective on developing curriculum and instruction for high-ability students, the parallel curriculum model may be used in both heterogeneous and homogeneous classroom settings. Whether students are working at a basic level of skill and understanding or at a high-ability level, teachers can implement this model with ease and confidence. *The Parallel Curriculum: A Design to Develop High Potential and Challenge High-Ability Learners* (ISBN 0-7619-4559-8) introduces the reader to four “parallel” approaches to curriculum development to ensure rich learning experiences for all learners. It illustrates “ascending intellectual demand” as a means of extending the intensity of challenge as students develop along a continuum toward expertise in learning. Written by well-known authors and researchers in the field of gifted education, this book presents a comprehensive and research-based overview of the model it introduces. For more information contact Corwin Press, 2255 Tellet Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320-2218, (800) 818-7243, http://www.corwinpress.com.

Awaken Wonder in Young Minds

Explore the wonders of botany, chemistry, electricity, motion, molecular forces, temperature, air pressure, sound, sight, and more by investigating the ideas presented in the *Giant Book of Science Experiments* (ISBN 0-8069-8139-3). With more than 300 experiments and natural observations that are both entertaining and educational, this is the perfect book for the young person who wants to discover how things work and why things are the way they are. As the experimenter learns to use a wristwatch as a compass, create rain indoors, or suspend an egg in water, he or she learns the underlying scientific principles. Each project is illustrated and includes clear instructions and explanations of the cause and effect. The only materials needed to conduct the experiments are simple tools and ordinary household articles. For more information, contact Sterling, 387 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016.

Strategies for Managing Stress

Gifted children are often extremely sensitive, perfectionistic, and plagued with a sense of justice that makes stress management a challenge. *Stress Can Really Get On Your Nerves!* (ISBN 1-57542-078-3) invites kids to examine what causes them to feel stressed and gives ideas for addressing stress in various situations. Questions invite the reader to use metacognition (thinking about how you think) to deal with feelings, concerns, and anxieties. Romain and Verdick also appeal to the reader by “sharing facts about stress, strange-but-true tales about stress, the world’s worst stress relievers (things not to try and why), ways to be a Panic Mechanic and fix your own stress messes, and much more.” Plus, this easy-to-use book is full of jokes and cartoons—laughter is a great stress reliever! For more information contact Free Spirit, 400 1st Ave. N., Ste. 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1724, (800) 735-7323, http://www.freespirit.com.