

## The Murray Approach to Education

- \*Empowers students and teachers**
- \*Appeals to different learning styles and intelligences**
- \*Fosters a student-centered, flexible environment**
- \*Focuses on hands-on learning, application of concepts, and inter-disciplinary teaching**
- \*Promotes the development of meaningful student products and allows for different means of assessment**
- \*Fosters meaningful relationships and respect among all members of the Murray community**

## MURRAY EDUCATIONAL CENTER

An experiential approach to alternative education.

### Definition

#### Educational Alternative Program

Educational programs which are designed to offer variations of traditional instructional programs and strategies for the purpose of increasing the likelihood that students who are unmotivated or unsuccessful in traditional programs remain in high school and obtain a high school diploma.

### Background

Murray Educational Center is one of the options available to students not presently succeeding in a traditional program. It will be an intense, experiential learning opportunity designed to meet the needs of students who are at risk to slip through the cracks. The program is being developed after careful review of the literature and reflects the consensus of a committee appointed by the Director of Federal & Special Instructional Programs. (see attachment A)

### Admissions

Research clearly indicates that alternative schools are most successful if admissions criteria are established and adhered to. To suggest that a student be placed at Murray for any reason other than an opportunity for educational success would be inappropriate and not in the child's best interest.

### Application Procedure

Student referral based on performance indicators (Attachment B,C)  
Family interview  
Student interview  
Application  
Home school records  
At any time during the admissions process a potential student may choose to visit Murray for a 3 day period.

#### Admissions Advisory:

Rochelle Friedman	- Murray Education Center Principal
	- Lead Counselor
Mac Canter	- Director of Federal & Special Instructional Programs
Larry Lawwill	- Building Administrator
Joyce Turner	- Guidance Representative
	- Murray Teacher

Students accepted at Murray must agree to:

1. Choose to attend school regularly
2. Choose to learn
3. Choose to allow teachers to facilitate learning and classmates to learn

As of June 10, 1988:

Alternative Education students have been invited to a group presentation and encouraged to apply.

Families of students who indicated an interest have been contacted.

Middle/secondary administrators/guidance personnel have met and have been encouraged to counsel appropriate students to apply for September admission - parents/students will be contacted.

Interviews\* - Week of July 25

Placement - Week of August 1

\* Timeline reflects guidance person on board and IDEA attendance

#### Data Collection and Analysis

Individual Reading Inventory  
Writing Sample  
Estes Interest Survey  
Learning Styles Inventory

Students and staff will design individual programs to enhance learning style, interests and academic needs and goals.

#### Monitoring

A system developed to determine success of the program of the individual is to include:

1. attendance
2. student involvement
3. peer interaction
4. academic success (mastery)
5. individual goals established by students/staff

Staff and students will work together to adjust the program for students who choose to attend and choose to learn. Students who choose not to succeed (based on poor attendance, lack of involvement, infringement on peer learning) will be referred to the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction regarding alternative placement. The Murray Education Center staff is determined to provide a solid educational program that can provide success for students who might otherwise slip through the cracks.

### Academic Assessment

Mastery learning to include a continuum of objectives, frequent formative evaluation and summative evaluation.

Grading

A

B

C

I

(incomplete mastery - student will continue to work towards mastery)

Education Program

Cooperative team approach where learning is a process that evolves in an experiential setting.

Experiential units will be developed to encourage hands-on participation allowing students to integrate and apply concepts.

THE MURRAY TEAM WILL DEVELOP AN ACCOUNTABILITY DOCUMENT THAT WILL ALLOW MASTERY OF SOL'S TO BE TRANSLATED INTO SPECIFIC COURSE CREDIT.

Sample Schedule

- 9:10 - 9:20 Town Meeting - school concerns
- 9:20 - 9:35 Family Group (every staff member will be directly responsible for a small group)

Example

Block 1		Block 2	
Math/Science/Wellness or Career Ed.	Lunch	Humanities	
Humanities/Wellness or		Math/Science/Wellness	Fam Group
9:35 ----- 12:00		12:30 ----- 3:00	3:00-3:05

Timelines for units and blocks will remain flexible.

Blocks shall be flexible enough to allow for direct and computer aided instruction.

Whenever possible field trips will be arranged prior to introducing a new unit to whet the student's appetite.

It is conceivable that the program will gear up on Fridays to address the following needs:

1. correctives
2. enrichment
3. independent study
4. community participation

