

## The Challenge Lab: The Next Step Beyond Mastery

### What

- A classroom where students can come for extension lessons, research, higher thinking games and projects
- A place where teachers can send students who have achieved an academic goal
- High grade on test (while others review)
- Mastery of an objective
- Finished class work correctly and in good order
- An exciting, hands-on learning environment

### Who

- Any student who achieves an academic goal (*not just for GT*)
- Identified GT students (scheduled groups)
- High achievers who need extra challenge
- Student with a passion for a topic to study in depth

### When

- Scheduled groups
- Lunch Bunch
- Study Groups
- Chess Club
- Drop Ins
- Open lab times on Schedule
- Pre-arranged times for small groups with classroom teachers during open lab

### Why

- To add value to students' education
- To give teachers smaller groups to reinforce concepts & for STAAR remediation
- To support classroom curriculum in depth and complexity
- To offer more options for students needing more challenge
- AS AN ACADEMIC INTERVENTION for high-level students who learn differently

### How

- Scheduled Groups
- Printed schedule to every teacher
- Groups come on their own at their lab time
- Open Lab
- Passes: Teachers have a pass tablet
  - Time to return
  - Activity requested
  - Several names on one pass
- Fridays
- Lab time is very congested
- Reward visits are typical
- \*\*Save research or more structured activities for another day

### Subjects

- All Core Subjects
- Grade levels submit sequence of objectives for the year
- Lab Teacher coordinates activities by week/6 weeks
- Teachers may specify an objective to be addressed:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Obj. 2
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Texas Famous Dead People
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade addition double digits w/o regrouping