**T.A.P.S.**

**Total group, Alone, Partners, Small group**

**In any unit of study, some time must be spent in each of the areas that are defined by the term TAPS:**

* **(T) Total group –** There may be information and new skills that need to be shared or demonstrated to the whole class (modeled, guided practice, independent practice).
* **(A) Alone –** Students sometimes need to practice by working alone, which is how they perform or standardized tests. In life, we often work and think independently of others.
* **(P) Partners –** Partnering gives students a process: a narrow audience with whom to share ideas, discusses new information, or process learning. Random partners, or teacher-constructed pairs can accomplish this.
* **(S) Small group** – Groups of three or four students may be constructed for a variety or purposes. IN any group larger than three or four, some students may be off-task or lack real commitment to the goal.

**Applications of TAPS to the Learning Process**

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| **Total**Whole class instructionAll students doing the same thing | Pre-assessmentPresenting new informationModeling new skillsGuest speakerViewing a video/podcastUsing a jigsaw strategyTextbook assignments |
| **Alone**All students working alone may have a variety of tasks based on interest or readiness | Pre-assessmentJournal entryPortfolio assessingSelf-assessmentIndependent studyInteractive NotetakingReflection |
| **Paired**All students have a partnerRandom selection (card, color, etc.)Teacher selectionTask or interest orientation | BrainstormingChecking homeworkChecking for understandingProcessing informationPeer editingPeer evaluationResearchingInterest in similar topicPlanning for homework |
| **Small Group**Homogeneous for skill developmentHeterogeneous for cooperative groupsRandom or structured by teacher or students | Problem solvingGroup investigationsLearning centersCarousel brainstorming |

**NOTE: In a 4 x 4 block schedule, 3 of the 4 structures would be used in the lesson (in a purposeful order).**