Focus: Ongoing Assessment: The Key to A Differentiated Classroom

Resource: Information adapted from the Assessment Power Point.
http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/enriched/giftedprograms/instructionalstrategy.shtm

“Assessment is today’s means of understanding how to modify tomorrow’s instruction.”
- Carol Tomlinson

When do you assess?
Most teachers assess students at the end of an instructional unit or sequence.

When assessment and instruction are interwoven, both the students and the teacher benefit. The next “slide” suggests a diagnostic continuum for ongoing assessment.

On-going Assessment:
A Diagnostic Continuum

Preassessment (Finding Out)
- Pre-test
- Graphing for Greatness
- Inventory
- KWL Checklist
- Observation
- Self-evaluation
- Questioning

Formative Assessment (Keeping Track & Checking-up)
- Conference
- Peer evaluation
- 3-minute pause
- Observation
- Talkaround
- Questioning
- Exit Card
- Portfolio Check
- Quiz
- Journal Entry
- Self-evaluation

Summative Assessment (Making sure)
- Unit Test
- Performance Task
- Product/Exhibit
- Demonstration
- Portfolio Review

Preassessment Is...
Any method, strategy or process used to determine a student’s current level of readiness or interest in order to plan for appropriate instruction.

Preassessment:
• provides data that can determine options for students to take in information, construct meaning, and to demonstrate understanding of new information
• helps teachers anticipate differences before planning challenging and respectful learning experiences
Formative Assessment Is...
A process of accumulating information about a student’s progress to help make instructional decisions that will improve his/her understandings and achievement levels.

Formative Assessment:
• depicts student’s life as a learner
• used to make instructional adjustments
• alerts the teacher about student misconceptions “early warning signal”
• allows students to build on previous experiences
• provides regular feedback
• provides evidence of progress
• aligns with instructional/curricular outcomes

Summative Assessment Is...
A means to determine a student’s mastery and understanding of information, skills, concepts, or processes.

Summative Assessment:
• should reflect formative assessments that precede it
• should match material taught
• may determine student’s exit achievement
• may be tied to a final decision, grade or report
• should align with instructional/curricular outcomes
• may be a form of alternative assessment