

## Parallel Teaching

	We will use parallel teaching in our classroom when.....
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**Description:** One class is divided into two heterogeneous groups. Each teacher leads the same activity or teaches the same content with half the class.

**Pros:** Lower student-teacher ratio  
Can separate students with behavior problems  
Takes less time to cover content or complete an activity

**Cons:** Noise and distraction  
Both teachers must have adequate knowledge of content

**Guidelines for Use:** Parallel teaching is appropriate for practice activities, oral reading, increasing active participation, reviewing for a test, games and class competition.

**Pitfalls to Avoid:** Repeatedly taking the same group of students away from the classroom for instruction, resulting in two separate classes.

## **Parallel Teaching (continued)**

### **Elementary Example**

- Students in a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class are learning basic math facts. In order to provide ample practice activities, teachers divide students into two groups for flashcard drill and practice, with each teacher guiding a group. During the last five minutes of class, the teachers lead a game where the groups compete against each other.

### **Middle School Examples**

- For extra work space and to reduce noise and confusion during project work in a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Geography class, one teacher takes half of the class into another room to work, while the other teacher remains in the class with the other half of the students.
- During a directed reading lesson in 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts, the teachers divided the class into two groups to give students more opportunities for reading aloud. Following the reading lesson, students were paired with someone from the opposite group to discuss comprehension questions.

### **High School Example**

- Students in a 9<sup>th</sup> grade physical science class complete a study guide during a unit of instruction. The day before the test, the class begins with large-group discussion about the type of test questions that will be on the test. Then the two co-teachers divide the class into two groups. They each call out review questions from the study guide. Following the review, the teachers discuss problem areas and give study tips to the whole class.

### **Nonexample**

- Each day in language arts, the special education teacher works at a lower level with half the class, while the general education teacher works at a higher level with the other half of the class.

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