

# TEACHING DIVERSE STUDENTS

## DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM

A great deal of diversity exists in our HOPE, JOY, and GOYA groups, **as well as Sunday School classes** and other groups.

Each young person has a unique personality and learning style. Since our goal as youth workers is to impart the Gospel of Christ and the Tradition of our Orthodox Church, a knowledge of various learning styles is important so that each student has the opportunity to learn to the best of his or her ability.



## MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

Dr. Howard Gardner identified 8 different intelligences to account for a broader range of human potential in children and adults.

It's important to know how our children learn so that we can better teach them.

These intelligences account for the diversity of human learning and can be easily adapted for use in our Sunday School classes.

- ★ Linguistic intelligence (word smart)
- ★ Logical-mathematical intelligence (number/reasoning smart)
- ★ Spatial intelligence (picture smart)
- ★ Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence (body smart)
- ★ Musical intelligence (music smart)
- ★ Interpersonal intelligence (people smart)
- ★ Intrapersonal intelligence (self smart)
- ★ Naturalist intelligence (nature smart)

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

These learning styles can easily be incorporated into sessions, lessons, and activities:

- Include new vocabulary words and definitions
- Apply logical connections to dates and events
- Use icons to teach and illustrate the various saints and feasts
- Listen to hymns and use them as teaching tools
- Utilize group work and discussion
- Allow time for individual work and contemplation
- Conduct lessons outside when the weather is nice

## 7 PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD TEACHING

1. **Encourage bonds between students and teachers:** The Christian teacher/student relationship is different from the secular teacher/student relationship. Take extra steps to really get to know all your students and form a bond.
2. **Develop cooperation among students:** Cooperation among students in religious education is important because it encourages young people to talk about their faith.
3. **Encourage active learning:** Take steps to ensure that our youth are engaged in each lesson and not passive listeners.
4. **Give prompt feedback:** Knowing what you know and do not know focuses learning. Students need appropriate feedback on performance to benefit from courses.
5. **Emphasize time on task:** Time plus energy equals learning. Learning to use one's time well is critical for students and professionals alike.
6. **Communicate high expectations:** High expectations are important for everyone. Let your students know what your goals are and strive to help them reach these goals.
7. **Respect diverse talents and ways of learning:** Having knowledge of the different ways people learn and incorporating diversity into your classroom makes you a more effective teacher.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### Multiple Intelligences

[http://www.thomasarmstrong.com/multiple\\_intelligences.htm](http://www.thomasarmstrong.com/multiple_intelligences.htm)

### Theory of Multiple Intelligences

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory\\_of\\_multiple\\_intelligences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory_of_multiple_intelligences)

### Learning Personality

[http://www.motivation-tools.com/youth/learning\\_personality.htm](http://www.motivation-tools.com/youth/learning_personality.htm)

### 5 Tricky Classroom Personalities and How To Handle Them

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/classmgmt/trickypersons.htm>

### Tools For Good Teaching

<http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/teaching.html>

### Practices For Teaching and Learning in a Diverse Society

[http://educ.queensu.ca/equity\\_and\\_exceptionality/Antiracism/Strategies%20for%20Teaching%20and%20Learning%20in%20a%20Diverse%20Society.htm](http://educ.queensu.ca/equity_and_exceptionality/Antiracism/Strategies%20for%20Teaching%20and%20Learning%20in%20a%20Diverse%20Society.htm)

### 7 Principles for Good Teaching Practice

<http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/7princip.htm>

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