I. Course Description:
In this course we will look at a number of important Curriculum and Instructional Topics and learn about the principles and strategies that successful teachers understand and skillfully employ to achieve consistently outstanding results in their classrooms.
We will not use a textbook but there will be a number of articles, research studies, websites, etc. that we will read and discuss. There will be no formal papers, but a number of informal ones will be used to capture your thinking about key articles or issues.
I will share with you, as honestly and openly as possible, what I have learned and observed over my 40 year career as a Classroom Teacher, Special Education Resource Teacher, Director of Special Education, and Director of Instruction for Scott County Public Schools - and presently director of the A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School which serves Gifted & Talented High School Students from the 16 school systems in southwest Virginia.

Topical Outline:
1. Understanding and Preparing Students for the Standards
   Curriculum Alignment Strategies (“Teaching the Right Material, At the Right Level”)
2. Teaching So They’ll Remember
   Cognitive Research and Its Implications for Instructional Methods
3. Critical Elements of an Effective Instructional Session
   Planning & Facilitating Effective Lessons
4. Classroom Instruction That Works
   From 30 Years of Educational Research
5. Classroom Management
   Principles & Practices To Help Keep You Sane and Promote Success
6. Differentiating Instruction
   Meeting the Divergent Needs of Your Students
7. Exciting Instructional Technology, Websites, & Gadgets
   Wow! I Didn’t Know About That!
8. Effectively Integrating Instructional Technology.
   How Do I Actually Use This To Help My Students?
9. Understanding & Using Learning Styles Research
   Classroom Applications
10. Motivating Students To Do Their Best
    Leading the Unwilling, To Do The Unpleasant, To Accomplish The Unheard Of
11. Evaluating Student Achievement
    (Purpose, Practice, and Problems)
12. Best Teaching Practices in the Various Curricular Areas
    What Have Successful Teachers Learned?
13. Professional Resources And Strategies For Continuous Professional Growth
    Staying Current While I Am Busy With The Challenges of Life