

# Foreword

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**T**his close-to-the-classroom book, by Carla Marschall and Rachel French, provides chapter after chapter of gifts to teachers. Remove the lid of Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction—and specific inquiry strategies, suggestions, templates, and videos pop out for teacher use. Teachers can directly use the strategies, adapt them to fit their classroom needs, or springboard to their own creative ideas for Concept-Based Inquiry.

This book is a significant contribution to Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction because it takes teachers by the hand and shows them *how* to use inquiry to move students from lower level knowledge and skills to deep conceptual understanding and transfer.

*Concept-Based Inquiry* is well-written and follows a logical layout: The first three chapters provide the foundations of Concept-Based Instruction and Concept-Based Inquiry. Marschall and French place inquiry-based approaches on a continuum. They clearly define and explain different types of inquiry ranging from structured to open. Unlike other books about inquiry, this one goes a step further. These authors keep the goals of concept formation, the development of generalizations and transfer at the heart of the inquiry process. Individual chapters showcase a different phase of inquiry and explain how each phase keeps building students' conceptual schema. But, the chapters don't stop there. A wealth of specific instructional strategies are included to show readers how it is done.

Perhaps one of the most valuable aspects of this book are the video clips that give you a peek into actual Concept-Based classrooms showcasing inquiry in action. The videos come from schools around the world and from different grade levels and subject areas. The saying, "A picture paints a thousand words," is exactly what these video clips do. They make you wish you could step right into the classroom.

Marschall and French have successfully used the core tenets of Concept-Based teaching and learning (conceptual understanding, transfer, the conceptual lens, guiding questions, and synergistic thinking) as the anchors for the design of each chapter's Inquiry toolbox. We would have loved this book of strategies, suggestions, clarifications, and videos as young teachers!

—H. Lynn Erickson and Lois A. Lanning