Centers vs. Stations
are distinct work in concert with each other

Centers - a classroom area that contains a collection of activities or materials designed to teach, reinforce, or extend a particular skill or concept. Centers can be interest centers designed to motivate students' exploration of topics they are interested in or learning centers Interest centers:
* focus on important learning goals
* use materials addressing a wide range of levels, profiles and interests
* activities that vary from simple to complex, concrete to abstract, structured to open ended
* provide clear directions
* includes instructions for what to do if needs help
* uses a record keeping system to monitor what students do and quality level
* includes a plan for ongoing assessment of growth in tasks

Learning centers:
* materials usually teacher constructed
* materials and tasks focus on mastery or extension of specific understandings or skills
* materials and tasks are more exploratory than other assignments
* differentiated content, process or product

Stations
* different spots in room - students work simultaneously
* teachers can ask students to move to particular parts of room
* conducive to flexible groupings
* not all students need to spend the same amount of time at each station
* assignments of students can vary day to day based on who rotates there
* teacher can set up parameters but student can also choose.