

Amanda Blaylock

Weekly Reflection Journal

9-17-07

1. When did I feel the most connected, engaged, or affirmed as a teacher this week?
 - When I had all my K students' attention – they were listening to directions about how to play “Doggie Doggie”
 - When my third and fourth grade students readily recalled a song that I had taught them four days ago
 - When my fourth grade students stated “We already did this once!” – YAY they are bringing forth knowledge from class to class
 - When I received hugs or high fives from every child in a class after their class
2. When did I feel most confident and competent with my skills?
 - On Day 4 after I had already taught the lesson three times
 - When I was teaching material that I had taught before
 - When I could see the students were engaged and wanted to participate
 - When all my first graders passed their assessments!
3. When did I feel the most disconnected, disengaged, or discouraged as a teacher this week?
When did I doubt my competence and confidence?
 - When students were daydreaming, squirming, or tuned out
 - When I was unable to conduct my kindergarten class with Brian kicking and fighting me in my lap
 - When my third graders (Kendall), constantly hold conversations underneath my teaching
 - When a child chooses not to give me a high five at the end of class
4. If I could repeat this week, what would I do differently based on the learning and responses of my students?
 - I would try to use more positive reinforcement with my students
 - Maybe try different pacing for instrument playing
 - More individual attention – how do I do this while still keeping the pacing of my whole class instruction?
5. What am I most proud of this week based on the learning and responses of my students?
 - The 1st graders' achievement on loud/soft and high/low outcomes
 - Ability to create a functioning Orff ensemble with my 3rd grade students
 - Confident singing in grades 1 – 4
 - My ability to network with colleagues and come up with a plan for Brian
 - Voicing my desire to be put on the agenda for a staff meeting to explain my ‘winter program’

Other thoughts about this week:

- Overall this was a great week – full of successes and learning on both my part and the students'

9-24-07

1. When did I feel the most connected, engaged, or affirmed as a teacher this week? When did I feel most confident and competent with my skills?
 - When I had all my 4th grade students dancing and singing without complaint
 - When I walked around and all my 4th grade students were easily completing a worksheet on note names
 - When my first grade students could pat and label beat
 - When my second grade students could perform fast and slow on instruments
 - When my third grade students demonstrated an understanding of dynamics
 - When 30 students showed up to chorus! Now I just need more boys!
2. When did I feel the most disconnected, disengaged, or discouraged as a teacher this week? When did I doubt my competence and confidence?
 - When students were daydreaming, squirming, or tuned out
 - When students refused to participate
 - When I was unable to manage a talkative class (Sessler)
3. If I could repeat this week, what would I do differently based on the learning and responses of my students?
 - Devise a new plan for the dynamics project in 3rd grade – both options were lacking in one respect or another
 - Stick to my discipline (warning, book) system more
 - Be more goofy and fun with my students – show my true colors!
4. What am I most proud of this week based on the learning and responses of my students?
 - Labeling beat with my first graders
 - Giving my students a chance to play instruments
 - Keeping 2nd grade moving and engaged

Other thoughts about this week:

- This week was tough because I was sick . . . but I feel I was able to overcome my obstacles and still teach effectively and continue toward learning outcomes.

10-1-07

1. When did I feel the most connected, engaged, or affirmed as a teacher this week? When did I feel most confident and competent with my skills?
 - When my 4th grade students easily and confidently sang in round and in partner song
 - When the majority of my 4th graders could easily clapped tika tika cards
 - K was so MUCH MORE attentive this week! I think we are getting into routines and setting expectations.
 - First grade students confidently clapped, patted, pointed to the beat and labeled 'beat'
 - 2nd grade students began to find ta-ah with more ease
2. When did I feel the most disconnected, disengaged, or discouraged as a teacher this week? When did I doubt my competence and confidence?
 - Instrument ensembles with 3rd grade – how do you get to everyone but keep the classroom management and keep everyone from getting ancy and unattentive?
 - Krebsbach's class- I could not control the talking- nothing got done!
 - How to keep students from talking during explanations – it is so draining on the voice!
3. If I could repeat this week, what would I do differently based on the learning and responses of my students?
 - Stick to my discipline (warning, book) system more
 - Be more goofy and fun with my students – show my true colors!
 - Find another option for instruments??? I don't know what it would be. . . .
4. What am I most proud of this week based on the learning and responses of my students?
 - 2nd grade ta-ah discoveries
 - 4th grade singing abilities- WOW- I am so proud that they love singing!
 - 4th grade chorus was extremely attentive and want to learn – I heard many comments like "Aww. . it's over already! I want chorus to last longer!"

Other thoughts about this week:

- Winter program was on my mind all week. It was interesting to juggle starting the planning process while still having to focus on teaching. Also, getting observed 3 times in one week was a little stressful but it really made me think about what I'm doing and how I react to my students. It was nice to really analyze my every move again, although I wouldn't want to do it every class.

10-9-07

1. When did I feel the most connected, engaged, or affirmed as a teacher this week? When did I feel most confident and competent with my skills?
 - When all my first graders could easily find and tap the beat with rhythm sticks to a recorded piece of music
 - When my second grade students began to easily find words that received two beats and were excited to be able to quickly answer my questioning
 - When third grade was able to find L and were able to know its name
 - When fourth grade easily found ti-tika and were able to play a note name game – I am so proud that the majority of them are reading note names off of the treble clef.
 - K is going so much smoother. The students are beginning to comprehend my expectations and correct one another when they are not being met.
 - Chorus- YAY! They are so excited to be there, are extremely attentive, and sing beautifully!
2. When did I feel the most disconnected, disengaged, or discouraged as a teacher this week? When did I doubt my competence and confidence?
 - When I was teaching unprepared or last minute because I spent too much of my prep time on other activities and preparation. I need to take the last 7 minutes or so to make sure I have looked over my lesson plans and am ready to teach my afternoon classes.
 - Third Grade Boyer- How do I deal with Tanner and still maintain a positive atmosphere with the rest of the students? How do I reach him? I'm getting exhausted with staying positive with him.
 - I am still struggling with chattyness and hands raised at inappropriate times. How do I convey to the students that I encourage their participation but only at appropriate times? How do I teach them when those times are?
 - How do I handle students who are completely non-participatory? Kindergarten for example- how do I get those students involved without making a negative impression?
3. If I could repeat this week, what would I do differently based on the learning and responses of my students?
 - Be true to my expectations – use my discipline system to the T.
 - Spend more time in preparation for teaching current lessons instead of program work. It will get done!
4. What am I most proud of this week based on the learning and responses of my students?
 - Watching the learning take place at each grade level!
 - Receiving extremely positive comments from my observers about the learning and responses of my students.
 - Smiles and giggles!

Other thoughts about this week:

- Being a first year teacher is exhausting! I feel overwhelmed with the amount of work I am required to do in addition to teaching! I wish I could simply focus on my teaching. I understand the importance and benefit of the mentor program, observations, and the

Dane County New Teacher Project but it is very demanding on a young teacher who is simply struggling to stay fresh and new from day to day!