

The Reflective Journal: Week 12

This past week flew by in a blink of an eye. This week Mr. York started teaching math again and the students noticed right away. I listened to two phone conferences with Mr. York and the students' parents. I was also observed by Dr. Popplewell with my adage lesson and completed my third benchmark with Mr. York.

My goal for this week was to contact at least two parents this week. I did not accomplish my goal. Even though there were two phone conferences with parents, I only listened to the conversation and nodded in agreement. I talked to Mr. York about how it just makes me nervous, however he convinced me that it is not bad at all. He explained that in order for a successful contact to happen, you have to take the approach that my concern is for the good of the student. By the end of the semester, I plan to contact parents through Class Dojo, handwritten notes, and phone.

My most proud moment was the two days when the students did literacy station. Last week, I did my first two rotations and they did not go as I expected. However, this week was definitely better. I stated the transitions clearly as well as which groups were with me and which groups were the background groups. I also ensured that the students who were not in those groups were working individually. While I had my groups, I started off by stating that we need to stay focused and if they do not, then I would move their magnets. The students understood and I did not move any magnets. I was also very proud of the questions they asked and the connections they made while reading the stories. Overall, I feel as though this week's stations ran a lot smoother and were more beneficial to the students.

On the other hand, one of my failures this week was my appositive review lesson. I began by showing them a quick two-minute review video of what an appositive is and how to add one in a sentence. I wanted to make this quick because I introduced appositives about three weeks prior. The students began by finding ten appositives in a short story, but many were having difficulties. I went around and helped the students, but some were still not understanding how to identify them. So, we went over the ten appositives and the students appeared to understand the concept more. Then, I went over two problems where the students had to combine two sentences to make one sentence with an appositive. We ran out of time and the students had to do the rest for homework. When I graded them the next day, there were only about seven students that did most of the five problems correctly. It was a big disappointment on my part and I plan on reviewing how to combine two sentences with appositives soon.

Throughout this week, Mr. York and I completed my third benchmark. He expressed how much I have grown and how my unit was strategically planned and went well. He especially liked that the students volunteered at Motivate Our Minds. However, there are still a lot of things that I need to work on and with practice, one day I will accomplish them. One thing that I need to do is contact parents through Class Dojo, handwritten notes, and phone calls. I also need to work on presenting my instruction in multiple ways. For example, with appositives I should have shown that appositives could happen at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence. Another thing that I need to work on is asking students higher level questions. For example, I need to ask students why and to elaborate more on their answers. Overall, I feel as though I have made tremendous progress and will continue to work hard.