

The Reflective Journal: Week 3

Week three had more downs than ups. On Thursday, Mr. York was out, which meant that I was running the classroom with the substitute's support. However, I did not manage the class. Mr. Moore had to talk to the class twice and two other teachers came in to make sure the students were working. Also, personally I feel as though my grammar lessons are not going well. All in all, this week was a learning experience.

My goal for this week was to utilize what I know about the students background knowledge to help them understand various concepts. On Tuesday, all seven of the student teachers at Longfellow took a field trip around the Whitely Community. We visited the Buley Center, Shaffer Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Connection Corner, Motivate Our Minds, and Huffer Memorial Children's Center. This experience allowed me to become closer to the community because I have heard of some of the places we visited, but I did not know anything about them. It was nice to get to know the community and understand what the students do after school. By going on this field trip, I have used the information I gathered to give examples using what I know about the students' background knowledge and where they come from when teaching.

My biggest failure this week was Thursday when Mr. York was not there. I could not manage the students and most of them were out of control. The worst part was that I did not know what to do. Students were out of their seats, asking if they could go to the nurse or go to the bathroom, in my face arguing about something, and some just did not want to do their work. I did all of the classroom management techniques that I knew and implemented the ones Mr. York used, but it did not work. I did not know what to do. Based on that experience, I now know that when Mr. York leaves again in two weeks, I will establish the ground rules right in the beginning and will not be afraid to send students down to the principals office if needed.

However, one of my good moments this week was when I realized that other teachers and the principal have my back and care about me too. The principal talked to the class twice about how they were being disrespectful and two teachers came into the classroom to make sure the students were not giving me a hard time. One teacher even said that it will be okay and told me about a time when she was student teaching and a student faked a seizure. It was nice to know that everyone has gone through something similar. Even though I felt terrible because I could not manage the class and others had to intervene, I appreciated the help.

My biggest conversation with Mr. York this week was about my classroom management. He showed me how to implement them and we talked about what else I need to do. We talked about how I need to be more assertive and not hesitate to do things such as move a student's magnet or start a lesson. We also talked about my spelling and grammar lessons because I feel as though I am not following along with the lesson plan format. We came to the conclusion that I am providing the students with new information, an activity, and an evaluation even if that is homework. Mr. York also gave me a success group that I will be leading next week, which is very exciting. Overall, this week was a huge learning experience for me.