

The Reflective Journal: Week 5

This past week was a partially long week. I woke up sick on Wednesday morning and stayed sick into the weekend. Wednesday was the worst day because it did not end. I felt a little better as it was getting towards the end of the week, but I still did not want to move. Even with the sickness, this week I did learn about Muncie Community Schools, data collection, and various teaching tips.

My goal for this week was to have a closure after each lesson including asking a question, telling the homework, and explaining what the students need to do next. Overall, I have been ending my lessons with a closure instead of just saying here is the homework. I also have been telling them to line up quickly and quietly for the bathroom or clear their desks for the next activity. However, I still do not always ask a question. I think with more practice and by consciously remembering to ask one, I will do better with time.

My most proud moment was when I realized that I have formed some great relationship with the students. From earlier in the semester, I can remember a few students treating me poorly. Now, they tell me to have a great lunch or have a great day. I believe I have reached this level with some students by asking them if they need help, telling them good morning, and showing that I care about them. Also, this week students have started hugging me more. One student hugged me before school and one of the girls saw as she was leaving the bathroom. She walked up to me and hugged me to before retracing her steps back into the gym. She helped make my day.

On the other hand, my least favorite moment was not just a moment, but Wednesday through Friday. I felt terrible and I was sick. In the mornings I would take medicine and when I got home I went to bed early, but I still was not feeling well. Those three days were my least favorite because I did not give one hundred percent. I took all of the opportunities I had to sit down at my desk during the day. Looking back, I realize that I probably should have taken a day off. I should have also tried harder and fought through the pain. This week also proved that I need to start taking better care of my health and one way I am going to start is by taking vitamins.

This week I also attended a meeting with Mr. Moore, the data coach, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. York to review the students' data. The data was based on the students' Chalkable, NWEA, and past ISTEP scores. After reviewing the data, the conclusion was made that we need to meet with all of the fifth grade parents to talk about the overall behavior of the students and how it is impacting them and the others from learning. During this meeting, Mr. Moore will also explain how their student needs to start taking school seriously especially when they take the ISTEP because they are capable of passing.

Throughout this week, Mr. York and I talked about my spelling lesson, how to have a writing conference with a student, and Muncie Community Schools. Overall, my spelling lessons have been going more smoothly except for the definitions. Mr. York suggested that I have the definitions displayed on the board and I hand out the definitions to the two students with IEPs. As for the writing conferencing, instead of having the students read it aloud, I should read it to the students. This way the students hear what they wrote. Also, I need to tell the students a score out of six and explain why they received that score. Additionally, Mr. York and other teachers have expressed their concerns with Muncie Community Schools. Mr. York has apologized that I have heard some of the conversations. However, I honestly think that I and the other student

teachers need to hear it because this is the real world. We will be choosing where we would like to teach very soon and it is important for us to know their concerns.