

The Reflective Journal: Week 6

My goal for this week was to learn how to use the SMART board and utilize it in at least one lesson instead of the whiteboard. I definitely reached this goal. During a lesson, Mr. York encouraged me to try to use the SMART board before learning how to do it. Luckily, nothing went wrong. The following morning, I practiced using different buttons and features on the SMART board. Within my lessons, I have used the SMART board to write my motivations and the new content instead of using the whiteboard. I have not done anything fancy in my lessons with it yet, but as I gain more confidence of using it effectively, I plan on utilizing it a lot more often.

My most proud moment was during our tutoring session afterschool. Mr. York and I were supposed to attend a meeting afterschool, but did not contact the parents to tell them there would not be tutoring. So, Mr. York attended the meeting while I worked with the students. We picked up the thirteen students, which has been our highest attendance yet. Mr. York told the students as we were walking to the classroom about his meeting and that if anyone gives me trouble that I could send them to the hallway and they would be not allowed to stay for tutoring anymore. During our tutoring session, it took a couple of minutes for some students to get working and stay on task, but for the most part the students worked hard. The only struggle was trying to quickly work with one student that way I could move onto the next student that needed help.

On the other hand, one of my failures this week was not addressing a student right away about what she said about another student. The student called another student gross and he was hurt. I brought him out into the hallway to talk to him, but he did not want to talk. Also, during this time, Mr. York had to leave to take a basketball picture and I did not have the opportunity to finish talking to the student. Once I went back into the classroom, the students were extremely rowdy and were not getting quiet. By the time Mr. York arrived, the students were finally working and I had completely forgotten about talking to the student who called the other gross. The following morning, Mr. York and I were talking and the situation came up. He went to talk to the student and she denied what she said. So, Mr. York brought the student to the classroom to talk with me too. At the end of the conversation, she had to apologize to the other student and her parents were receiving a note about the situation as well. Overall, I learned that I should address issues right when they happen.

This week I also attended an individual parent meeting and a parent meeting for all of the fifth grade parents. The individual parent meeting made me feel very uncomfortable because the father kept staring at his son and the student would not look anyone in the eyes. However, the conversation went well because the father and the godmother explained how they support us. Everyone also came to the conclusion that the student has to change his behavior and only he can do it. At the parent meeting for all of the fifth grade parents, I was surprised as to how many parents and students attended. I was also happy to see so many parents nodding and agreeing with what Mr. York and Mrs. Walker, other fifth grade teacher, were saying about the correlation between the students' behaviors, grades, and test scores. Overall, I believe this meeting was necessary and effective because it showed the parents that their children need to get serious for ISTEP.

Throughout this week, Mr. York and I talked about various topics. One conversation was how I need to get louder during transitions because the students do not do well with transitions. He also suggested giving them a time and providing them with more clear directions. We also

talked about how my lesson went that Dr. Popplewell observed and discussed his suggestions. Overall, Mr. York agreed with Dr. Popplewell's suggestions and agreed with his scoring. This made me feel relieved because I did not receive mixed reviews on the lesson. The last big topic was about Muncie Community Schools. Not only have I heard how Mr. York feels, but also from other teachers and the principal. Overall, I am happy that they are honest with me and are willing to share how they feel. However, I am also extremely nervous for the schools and the education of future students.