

The Reflective Journal: Week 8

It is hard to believe that I am half way done with my student teaching. The weeks have truly flown by. I have learned so much in the last two months and I am excited to learn a lot more. Throughout this week, the students were taking ISTEP. Also, Mr. York and I did my second benchmark and we also discussed plans for next week.

My goal for this week was to respond to the students' misbehaviors appropriately and move students' magnets when they disrespect me. There has been a few incidents this week when students have been fighting or blaming each other that I have tried to handle. Some of them went well and others did not. I had a conversation with two students and they both ended up apologizing to each other at the end. Another conversation ended with another teacher coming up to help me. However, I did appreciate her help and listening to how she handled the situation because that was not the approach I would be taking. I truly have been trying to discipline the students more when I think it is necessary. I know I still have to work on it, but I did more one magnet this week for disrespect.

My most proud moment was with my success group. I reteach various math skills to six students. This week, we worked on multiplying and dividing fractions. Some of the students were struggling to simplify their answers because they did not know what numbers could be divisible by both the numerator and denominator. I also noticed that only one student was using cancelation. So, I took the opportunity and retaught them cancelation. Most of them were unwilling to use it, but I said I will do one problem with you, but you have to use cancelation. They all agreed. We began working on a problem and after thirty seconds, I heard a few of the students say done or Miss Wood is this right. I told the students to hold on. After about a minute, I heard one of the students say that I was taking a long time. When I finished, I looked up and asked if the students got the same answer as me. They all nodded. I began to explain to the students that we use cancelation because it saves us time and we do not have to simplify our answers as much. After that lesson, the students were using cancelation all week.

On the other hand, one of my failures this week was when I gave the students their pretest. One of the spelling words was speedometer except I pronounced it exactly how it is spelled. I still am unsure what went through my head when I read the word because I know how to pronounce it. Throughout the week, the students kept calling it speed-o-meter instead of speedometer. We even laughed about it a couple of times. However, the one good thing that happened was that no one misspelled speedometer on their spelling test on Friday.

This week was ISTEP week. I now fully understand why teachers get so stressed out about ISTEP. Honestly, I got stressed about the test because some of the students did not finish and others were confused on what to do for a couple of the problems. However, the students did give it their one hundred percent and honestly this was the first time I have seen all of them work that hard. It made me feel good that the students actually do care about their future and that they can get serious. Mr. York and I also discussed my progress when we filled out my second benchmark. We talked about things that I have been doing well at and things that I still need to work on. Mr. York even gave me ideas as to how I can improve on what I should be doing. He even stated that he has seen an improvement and that made me happy.

Throughout this week, Mr. York and I talked about how I will be taking over everything next week including the planning. This is extremely exciting to me, but I am also nervous. However, I think with enough planning, confidence, and learning from my mistakes, I will be fine. We also talked about the school board's meeting and how Muncie Community Schools

need to find a solution to get out of debt and fast. One of the big talking points between Mr. York, other teachers, and I was that when one community member asked the audience how many were teachers and only a few raised their hands. Then, he asked how many teachers are starting to look for other jobs and at least one hundred teachers raised their hands. I find this extremely concerning just like the Muncie teachers. I do not know how the schools will find teachers once most of them leave because of their pay cuts. Lastly, Mr. York and I discussed how proud we were of the students while taking ISTEP. They took their time, they read the questions, and they checked their answers. Even the students who never check their answers, checked them twice. It was rewarding to see the students stepping up to the plate.