

Weekly Reflection for week of Jan. 28

Goals:

- Continue working to meet Josh's needs
- Provide better "assessments" or checking for understanding of all students.
- Know my students

This week I really learned a lot of what it means to assess. Last semester in Math we particularly discussed the purpose of assessments in the classroom, and now I get to experience it. This week we really had to change quite a bit of our original planned schedule, as you may see in my plan-book. This was because we realized that the students needed more review on certain areas in the classroom such as math because we gave them a mid-chapter quiz that showed us they weren't as familiar with the concepts as we would have liked them to be. Because of this, we slowed down the content and allowed the students to have more time to understand and work through the concepts dealing with simple interest and percent of change.

Giving this assessment was so crucial because not only did it allow us to see student progress, but it showed us how to change our instruction or alter the program. Now I feel that our students are much more prepared for the chapter test because we allowed them more time for review and also more time to grasp the more difficult concepts. We layered in review amongst the new concepts as well, because we knew that if students did not have their basics of percents down, they would not be able to complete problems involving simple interest and more difficult concepts. Something else I took out of this week was that careful planning really does lead students toward success. Knowing what your actions will be at every step in a lesson helps to avoid any confusion or gaps in the day. However, it is also crucial to be flexible in your plan. You never know what bumps you may hit or what your students' actions will be, but knowing your actions will help you be 1 step more prepared. Lastly, I am learning just how crucial every minute of every day is because things such as assemblies, field trips, and students going to differentiated classrooms for instruction take large gaps out of our instructional time. Therefore, it is important for every minute to be used... efficiently!

Dear Kaly,

Your reflections giving compelling evidence that you are growing and improving. I appreciated your insights about Josh and the need to provide structure (and limit chaos) for him. One strategy you can try is to let him know ahead what will be happening (changing). And always have a safe, less chaotic option for him. I admire you insights about the importance of using assessment to inform your instruction as well as you insight that "every minute counts." So true. Finally, it brought my heart great joy to watch the joy you experienced from collaborating and planning with Kendra. May you taste the joy of effective collaboration so you cultivate it throughout your career.

My best,

Dr. Wilson