

Student Teaching Panel Meeting Notes

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Q: What is the biggest difference between elementary and middle school student teaching?

C: Middle school and kindergarten is a bit different. Differentiation is a strongly needed in kindergarten.

A: Meeting people in different in your (math) department and planning off of others is nice because you can focus on your subject.

Q: How are the attitudes different between middle school and elementary students?

A: Middle school and elementary are similar. Hygiene is much different, middle schoolers have a strong smell.

C: Elementary are more eager to share with you and especially to anyone who will listen. When you get the chance to build a connection with your student, do it, you won't regret it.

Q: How do you build relationships with middle school students?

C: Building relationships with guys is easier for me, I focused on sport with boys. But the key is finding their interest and using that to build trust then make that connection. Anything you can do to find out what they like and building that relationship do it.

A: Building relationship was difficult for me. I had a student who was very done with school, she had a few behavior problems. Make those connections with the more challenging students can change the entire school year for those kids.

C: It might sound hard but you'll know. You'll be able to figure it out and build those connections. Be real with those kids, give them information about you to learn about them. Know where the line is so you don't cross it, you're a teacher but you're a teacher who cares and let them know that.

A: Going to their events is really great. Building that parent relationship is huge. Having that connection to help the student in the end. Also contacting the principal. Letting them know what happened to keep them in the know.

C: Asking your parent for help. Getting them on the same page to help the student will help the student and help build that relationship.

Q: What is your favorite part of working with middle school students?

A: The passion and the excitement they have. I do love block scheduling to have longer times to work on projects with them.

C: They enjoy learning things from you and it's amazing to see them teach each other and take charge of their learning. Having a dry sense of humor relates to them, starting with a joke to lighten the mood and get them going.

A: They're quirky, and it's fun to go with their quirkiness. Going to their middle school dances, I was never brave enough to do it.

Q: What is the biggest challenge you have working with middle school students?

A: You are able to deal with their challenges for the 8 weeks.

C: The difference between having kindergarten kids and middle schoolers is getting them to open up. Middle schoolers don't always know their place yet and are trying to figure out who to trust, working at it and building that trust getting them to open up to you.

A: Having families who don't value education. Getting them to understand the importance of their education when their parents don't. By the time your in 7th or 8th grade and if they don't have the foundation to build off of makes it hard, especially in math, but happens in every subject.

C: The biggest thing I learned in college and in student teaching is you don't know everyone's home life. Getting the kids to come to school is the biggest thing then building that trust to understand them takes work but worth it.

A: Kids with divorced parents have that instability going from house to house, understanding that they have a hectic life and you can only do the best you can. Knowing social workers to help them out and counselors to help is all you can do sometimes.

C: Getting to know the kid's home life is hard, going home and crying happens. Being able to see that kid work is amazing.

A: Working with those kids to help them and seeing them work is wonderful.

Q: How do you build authority when working with middle school students?

A: You make a goal of what you see in the camera, I am a straightforward person but I didn't have a loud clear voice. Using a bell so they make that connection they need to quiet down works too. That loud voice is needed.

C: One of the things I tried to make sure I did better is standing outside the door and giving high fives, fist bumps, whatever to show them you're not always behind the desk and you care. Setting those expectations, I respect you and you respect me. Having them understand those expectations so they know where they stand.

A: Building authority between individual students. They have to keep a certain grade due to a no fail policy. Having them know that if they don't meet these goals they will be go right back to learning it after the test, reassessing.

C: https://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion let your students know you care even if you have to reassess a third time or fourth time, we will get you there.

A: So many pieces to show you care.

Q: What steps are you taking right now to look for a job?

C: Teachlowa.gov is what I use. Looking there you can choose your location and browse job opportunities. You can fill out forms then you're on their. You see a job you want and hit apply and they see all your job. Subbing because everyone needs subs.

A: I did a district wide application so that I can do any of those schools.

C: For subbing you go to the main office and you bring them back but if you're looking for actual jobs that's when you use Teach Iowa.

A: I have done a few mock interviews to get myself ready. There's so many opportunities.

C: Subbing is definitely a need. But there are many high need areas even around the Cedar Falls area for teachers. Many places are looking to hire full-time right now. You get to pick your location.

A: Building those connections. Please don't put your PRAXIS 2 off before your graduation.

C: Honestly, go print off that free study guide and do it, it will help you! You gotta study for it and don't put it off.

A: Do it before you student teach you honestly don't have time.

Q: How tired are you?

A: Honestly I went to be at 7 to wake up past my alarm the next day at 7. You will build that stamina but you're tired. You will be exhausted. You really value your weekends. Leave time for yourself, you can't do too much.

C: Know your limits.

Q: When you first got your placement did you get all of your placements at once or was it staggered?

C: I was fortunate to get all of mine early. If they don't give it to you at the placement meeting but they will get it to you as soon as possible. It is hard for HR to get your placement it is reliant on the principal's communication.

A: I know of a few friends who need more than one placement and hers came in all over the place. You might be friends with your mentor or you might have to navigate.

C: Not everyone is like you, teachers are all different with their personalities.

A: Be flexible to no end.

Q: When should you sign up for student teaching?

A: It is very guided as to when you should do that.

C: They will give you time to do it and they'll help you through that and the steps it takes.

Q: When it comes to the placement do you get to choose your district?

A: There's so much that goes into it, like we said the HR person. You could do your top career choices but honestly I think it goes by semester how easy it gets.

C: It also depends what schools are taking student teachers. It really depends on the school. If the school just hired new teachers they may not be able to get you in. You want an experienced teacher to help you during this time.

A: The coordinators do a great job, they really try to help you out for what works best for you but you really need to communicate what you want.

Q: How did you deal with a teacher-teacher argument?

C: I didn't have too many arguments. When it came to my classroom I did what my teacher did. I just sat in the middle and understand you are a guest in their classroom. Managing what to say and when to say things. Do stand up for what you believe in but know that line.

