Paige Pritts

Journal 2

Kinder

CTA Freedom

Journal 2: Mentor Interview

1. When making contact with parents there needs to be balance of being humble and strong. If you step back to much the parents will walk all over you, but if you stand up with too much pride they will be upset that you are disrespecting them; because if you are a first time teacher you are most likely to be younger than most of the parents there. To communicate my teacher uses email first, but if the problem is progressing they will call the parent.
2. Parent teacher conferences are very useful and helpful for both teacher and parent. In the first quarter they meet with all the parents for 20 minutes each, to go over the report card and explain the grades and why their child received them. They also go over exams and tests to show the parents what their child will be tested on so they know how to help them study at home in order for them to be successful. In the 2nd quarter they make parent teacher conferences with only the parents whose students are struggling in class and need some extra attention.
3. Some extra expectations would be, running club which is a club at school that the teachers coach the students and every so many miles they run they receive a colored bracelet to award their achievement and in the 3rd quarter they run and race other competing schools.
4. They all have a staff meeting once a month, training meetings, and once a week team meetings with the kinder team.
5. Some committees are RTI and TAT, which are programs that students with behavior and academic issues are enrolled into so they are able to be evaluated to see if the problem is able to be fixed, RTI is geared more towards special needs students. There is also DATAWISE, which is a program that focuses on certain subject and lessons to teach and improve on. They use school test scores and ranges from grades K-6.
6. In the beginning of every quarter there are teacher workdays, and during one of those days there is a teacher development day were the teachers all get together and work on improving.
7. There aren’t many opportunities, but one at CTA would be running club coach. But the new teachers are not offered career ladder and many ways to earn some extra cash.
8. Carnival, running club, plays, and biweekly.
9. They turn them into the office in the beginning of each week and on each lesson plan the standards are listed next to each subject line. The lesson plan is a team planning effort, and every week, during the teachers conference they put together what they planned out for the next week and make copies for the team.
10. ATTACHED.
11. The teacher uses the document camera a lot and sometimes the chalk board, but says it’s hard to use and get used to. The students use the computers once weekly in the computer lab. There is 1 computer in the classroom for the students, and 1 for the teacher. And in the lab there is 1 computer per every student.
12. During my service learning I helped a lot around the classroom. I read books and followed each of them with a worksheet I went through with the class and helped them complete. I also helped out completing tests for the teacher and putting some projects together with the kids. I helped the teacher with decorating and completing her room for the holidays as well. I felt like I got a lot out of this experience and absolutely loved it. Teaching seems like an amazing experience and you get to touch so many little lives by doing it, they all look up to you and follow everything you do. Just like copying an older sibling, but you also need to teach them individuality. This grade level is defiantly for me, I want to try 1st grade maybe and just see how it is, but kinder is defiantly my calling. I love all the little kids, and silly questions, and I love being able to be their first ever teach and kind of setting the expectations and fun experiences for school. As a new teacher I could see myself struggling with parent teacher conferences, as well as being able to do lessons in front of people my age, I am fine around the little ones, but as soon as an adult walks in the room I get very nervous. I seriously can’t wait to get my own classroom and start my teaching experience.