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1/22/2008

Application Problem #1

Personal Educational Platform

As a third semester school of education student I am still developing a personal educational platform. One major idea that permeates my experiences is that schooling is meant to prepare students for the future. Educational systems are present in the United States to prepare students with knowledge to help them succeed as individuals within the global society. Students need to acquire basic knowledge and skills in order to be able to function in the world.

Within the classroom, students should be held to high expectations. The students' achievements will focus on connecting knowledge to real world application. Within public education today, curriculum guidelines driven by high stakes tests create demands on students. As a teacher I believe that the curriculum needs to be expanded to meet the needs of the changing technology within the world. Students need to be proficient in computers, technological skills, teamwork initiatives, and international relations in addition to the basics of reading, writing, computation, and scientific inquiry.

Students in the classroom will have different learning opportunities. Some tasks within the curriculum will require independent work, while other activities will allow for group collaboration. As a teacher, I will serve as a model, guide, disciplinarian, and mentor for the students. I will work to implement the curriculum in the classroom but adapt the lessons based on my students' needs. Together the students will work together to form classroom rules, with feedback from me. Once the rules are in place, I will uphold the classroom rules.

As a means to gauge learning, I will implement the OPIE model of teaching. Students will know objectives, be pre-assessed on their understanding, receive instruction and learning activities, and be evaluated based on the objectives. Since I will be working with younger elementary school students I will use direct instruction to teach basic math operations because it can be broken down into specific steps. I will also use guided discovery in the classroom. Students will carry out science investigations in which they make observations and then use their observations to find patterns and create conceptual definitions. My students will also be able to do cooperative learning activities in which the class will be given directions and the freedom to work through activities as groups.

One important thing that I will use to help my students reach the objectives will be effective planning of instruction. While specifying the objectives for my students I will

incorporate Bloom's Cognitive Taxonomy. Beyond remembering and understanding content, I want my students to be able to apply what they know, analyze information, create their own knowledge, and evaluate themselves. An example of an application objective I plan to address in science instruction is that students will conduct investigations in which predictions are based on patterns of observations rather than random guesses. I want my students to use information that they learn in the classroom and relate it to real world experiences. Additionally, I believe that informing students and parents about class expectations is important. I will clarify the topics that students will need to know, specify the objectives, prepare activities to help students reach objectives, and design assessments to measure the objectives.

One of the most influential theories for my class would be Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences. Each student has individual strengths and weaknesses within the eight different intelligences. Some students may be logical-mathematical oriented while others may be spatially gifted. The diversity of each learner will be due to intelligence, experiences, socioeconomic status, gender, and culture. Some students are visual learners, some kinesthetic, some verbal and others tactile, some independent and others social. Based on Gardner's theory I would have to use creativity to create lessons that target multiple dimensions and allow students to learn in a variety of ways.

Elementary students often learn by participating in hands on activities so I will arrange my classroom into groups of desks that can be used for center stations. I will also leave some empty space at the front of the room for the class to come together and discuss activities on a thinking carpet. Additionally, classroom computers will be available throughout the day for various activities and projects.

As a teacher, I will be organized and set up routines for the students to follow throughout the day. For example, the students will develop independence when unpacking their things, turning in assignments, and putting their bags and coats in their cubbies before class. I will also have inquiry activities ready for students to start on each day while I take attendance, lunch orders, and go over any announcements.

An important goal as a teacher is to create a positive open classroom environment. I believe that a teacher should show their students that they care about each and every person in the classroom and the school. Beyond caring and respecting students, teachers should set positive expectations for the students. Students will also regularly receive positive and effective feedback

on their verbal comments and written work. With the variety of learning strategies in my classroom, my role will vary. My ordered and positive classroom will promote students' freedom to share thoughts and ideas without facing criticism and ultimately create knowledgeable and successful world citizens.