

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: ___Abby Wegner_____

Date: ___1/13/2017_____

School: ___Saint Marcus Lutheran School_____

Grade Level(s): ___4th_____

Mentor Teacher: ___Kelsi Daffner_____

Week Number: ___1_____

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) **I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...**

The primary activity that I did this week was observe and get to know the students. It was really important to me to figure out how the classroom was run and to begin to form a relationship with each student. The students have an independent silent time where they work on reading and math. During this, I would help students with individual questions or ask them questions about the book they were reading. Also, I was able to, on Friday, give the students their spelling test and memory work. This was my first time in front of the whole class.

2) **My schedule next week...** (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

The only class I am teaching next week is Word of God (religion). This will occur Tuesday from 8:00 to 8:40, Thursday from 8:00 to 8:30, and Friday from 8:50 to 9:20. Saint Marcus does not have school this coming Monday and chapel on Wednesday, so I will not teach religion those days. Each day is themed and the students play a game according to the theme in their classroom. For example, Tuesday is thankful Tuesday, so I will lead a five minute game right before my lesson. I will also continue to observe and assist students during independent work time.

3) **Overall this week went...** (provide professional, insightful reflections)

This week went very well! I am walking away feeling excited to start teaching this week. The energy that Kelsi and the rest of the staff have at Saint Marcus is very contagious, which makes the students want to do well and be positive. I already feel like I am supported by the staff here. The students also

had a huge influence on how my week went. All of them were very welcoming by giving me hugs and holding my hand in the hallway. They would do these things before they even knew my name.

4) I achieved success this week...

This week was successful for me because I have learned all of the students names and have had individual conversations with each one of them about themselves. I can tell that a relationship is forming with every student in the class, and I hope it continues to grow. I also think that I have achieved success because Kelsi and I are having a great time setting up my schedule for teaching. I think that we get along very well and will be successful together. Lastly, I was successful this week in that the recruiter for Saint Marcus approached me and said that they were interested in hiring me for one of two positions next year. I am hoping that something will work out with this school.

5) My challenges this week...

Because of the relationships that I am forming, I think that some of students view me as a friend. This made it difficult if I ever had to discipline one of them because they would then try to talk back or completely ignore me. I would then have to put my face directly in their face and tell them exactly what I need them to do. I also struggled with trying to stay engaged throughout the whole day of observing. I started drinking lots of coffee and water throughout the day, which seemed to help.

6) I have learned that...

I have learned that I am not the students' friend, I am their teacher. I can do this by showing that I still love them and care about them, yet need to correct them when they are doing something wrong. However, this correction is always going to be out of love and care. To show authority, and attempt to get the response out of the students when disciplining them, I may need to change my demeanor in our regular conversations. The demeanor I am portraying now, could be too casual for them which is why they are not responding in the way I would like. This could also be due to that I am still new to them, given that it is my first week.

I have also learned that to keep the students engaged, I also have to look engaged. The students have been learning some complicated new concepts this week. Kelsi was able to keep the students engaged the entire time because she was extremely enthusiastic about what she was teaching. Her face would immediately lighten when she walked in front of the class and she would shout, chant, and joke around with the students to keep them with her. Being this positive and energetic throughout the whole day is something I could see myself needing to work on.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: ___Abby Wegner_____

Date: ___1/20_____

School: ___Saint Marcus Lutheran School_____

Grade Level(s): ___4th_____

Mentor Teacher: ___Kelsi Daffner_____ Week Number: ___2_____

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...

I am currently teaching Word of God (religion). Because of having no school on Monday and chapel on Wednesday, I only taught three lessons this week. That being said, I still assist students during intervention periods, which happen daily. I also on Friday lead a guided reading group. I have also still been observing the other subjects taught throughout the day.

2) My schedule next week... (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

My schedule next week will include teaching Word of God as well as reading. The word of God lessons will occur the same time they did last week, with the addition of Monday being 8:50-9:00. Reading occurs every day being Monday, Tuesday and Friday 12:50-2:10; Wednesday 8:00-10:10; Thursday 10:30-11:50. The reading class period is broken up into four increments for group work. I will therefore be teaching four different leveled groups from 2nd grade to 5th grade reading levels. We will be focusing on identifying different types of nonfiction text (scientific, technical, and historical). In addition to these two classes, there is parent teacher conferences on Thursday and Friday, which I am planning to participate in. Therefore there will not be school on Friday.

3) Overall this week went... (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week went well! I can tell that I haven't taught a lesson to an actual classroom of students since summer, so it felt a little odd getting back into it. My first lesson went very well and the students seem to be excited when I get up to teach. I can tell that my relationships between myself, the students, and Kelsi continue to grow in a positive manor everyday. Also, I have been talking to more of the teachers in the primary side of the building and starting to form relationships as well. However, halfway through the week, the staff was informed at a morning meeting that an eighth grader had committed suicide. I didn't personally know this student but it was definitely hard to hear and a lot of the teachers struggled with this. It was nice to see how the staff came together and uplift one another

throughout the week. This was yet another reason why I know that I am in an exceptionally supportive environment, that wants the teachers and students both to thrive.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through teaching my first lessons of my student teaching internship. There were of course things that I wish I could have changed, but for the most part all of the students understood the lesson taught each time. I also was able to better discipline the students by asserting myself and portraying a demeanor of authority. This also needs work, but I could notice myself improving. There is a student in my class that had selective mutism the previous year, but is still relatively quiet and hard to connect with. I was able this week to start conversations with her in which she was engaged and participating. I am hoping to continue to grow this relationship. Lastly, on the day of my first lesson, my car had broken down on the way to school and I had to take it into the shop. By the time I had gotten a ride to the school, rush hour was well under way and I was late. Upon arrival to the school, all of the power was out, so I couldn't get into the building. When someone had let me in, I ran upstairs and dropped all of my things and just started teaching. My lesson ended up going really well, despite all of the things that could have distracted me or the students.

5) My challenges this week...

My challenges this week was being awake and enthusiastic throughout my entire lesson. I would usually start my lesson well, but then I would lose energy as it went. When I start to lose energy and enthusiasm while teaching, the students do as well. Another thing that I thought I struggled with was the fluidity of my discipline with my teaching. It felt as though I was either teaching or disciplining, and I would like there to be flow between the two. This way it will not take away from the lesson. Lastly, I also struggled with staying patient with students that wanted to have mindless conversations. There is one student in particular that during transitions feels the need to talk to the teachers about things that have no relevance to what is happening. I feel bad telling her to stop talking to me about what she did last night, but she's not focused and is distracting other students.

6) I have learned that...

I need to be awake and excited about learning all of the time. As soon as I look like I am not excited about what I'm teaching, the students lose interest. I then have to in the middle of the lesson bring them back into what I am talking about. Also, I learned to how important it is to be flexible with what I'm given. When my car broke and the power was out, it was important that I model to the students that it doesn't matter what is happening around us because we still need to learn things today. I also learned how beneficial it is to plan out the behaviors and classroom management that I want to see throughout my lesson. In this way, I can focus more on the content of my lesson and not worry about the little behaviors that could disrupt it.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: Abby Wegner _____ Date: 1/27 _____

School: Saint Marcus Lutheran School _____ Grade Level(s): 4th _____

Mentor Teacher: Kelsi Daffner _____ Week Number: 3 _____

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...

The week I taught religion and reading. Because it was a four day week, I only taught religions three times (due to chapel) and reading all four days. The reading class period consisted of my teaching three leveled reading groups. The reading groups were leveled at second, third, and fourth grade skill levels. I taught them the skill of identifying a technical, scientific, or historical text and then used various worksheets and graphic organizers to comprehend it. Also this week was parent teacher conferences. I attended one on Wednesday and then close to twenty on Thursday. Kelsi and I didn't leave on Thursday until around 8:30pm. That was a very long day.

2) My schedule next week... (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

Next week, in addition to teaching religion and reading, I will also be teaching writing and English. Writing occurs on Tuesday at 9:30 until 10:00 and Thursday from 9:40 till 10:10. English is on Wednesday from 1:30-2:00. This is the majority of the classes that I will be teaching, except math which will be added on the week after. There are some other subjects that the students have like science, social studies, art, music, and physical education. I may not end up teaching them because Saint Marcus has specialist teachers for some of those and a teacher's assistant in Kelsi's room that teaches science and social studies.

3) Overall this week went... (provide professional, insightful reflections)

This week went well. I've had to deal with some more negative behaviors this week which was good because it gives me a more realistic picture of teaching. At times, I was overwhelmed by some of the behaviors, but it was a new learning experience for me as well as the student. I love that the students still want to hold my hand in the hallway and are always asking to help me with things like getting me coffee. I also have had more opportunities to talk to some of the other teachers and get to know them. It still amazes me how faith based and supportive the staff here is. They meet together every morning and talk about the day and either pray as a large group or in smaller grade level teams. One can easily see that this staff looks at each other as a team and a family.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through forming relationships with some of the struggling students. There is one student that has an emotional behavior disorder and gets mad easily. While I was instructing him, I was able to keep him calm and address any small problems he might be personally having. For example, he was upset during the transition and didn't want to talk about it. I had him go get a drink and collect himself so he could learn. He came back and did everything I asked of him. There is another student that Kelsi and I are pretty sure has some form of autism; his parents will not get him evaluated. He had a rough morning because someone bumped his desk and it wasn't straight. I went over to him and gave him a little pep talk and by the time he came to my group for reading he was very engaged and filled out the entire organizer on his own. Normally in groups, he doesn't pay attention and stares off into the distance, so this was a pleasant surprise.

5) My challenges this week...

The students have switched over to a new behavior tracking system, merits and demerits. These are used to track the good and bad things that a student does. Merits are given to students who display things like leadership, zest, and putting others before themselves. A demerit could be given to a student that does not follow directions after repeated reminders or has a uniform violation that can not be fixed. I am supposed to give these to students but I always get nervous before I give one out because if a student gets too many demerits they could get a detention. Likewise I never know if a student actually earned a merit. This I think will come along as I get more confident in my classroom management. I think that this is a good system to let them know how they are doing throughout the day. Also in regards to management, in my low level reading group, I have been struggling with management. It makes sense to me that they would have more behaviors to manage because they read at a second grade level and normally the lower the level, the more behaviors. They get frustrated very quickly, get distracted easily, and I feel like I'm constantly having to correct them and bring them back into the lesson. There has also been one student that will occasionally make rude comments towards me or other students, but only during reading groups. Outside of reading groups, he is extremely nice towards me and asks to help with certain things or just wants to talk. I had a conversation with him after school about his behavior, which he owned it and apologized for. Since then it had gotten better, but there is still some behaviors that occur that I need to address sooner and nip them in the bud.

6) I have learned that...

I think that I have decent classroom management for a large group setting. It will always need improvement, but it is where I am most confident. I need to work on more of what I want management in a small group setting to look like. This is where I need to be more confident in my discipline and address behaviors that I do not like. It is important to not get frazzled by the negative behaviors that students throw at me during small groups, and remain calm and collected. I also learned that there is a ton of planning that goes into leveled reading groups. I basically have to plan three separate lessons everyday, with separate texts, and a modified version of the concept. This seems like a very effective way for students to learn and grow, but takes a lot of preparation on the teacher's part.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: __Abby Wegner_____

Date: __2/4_____

School: __Saint Marcus Lutheran School_____

Grade Level(s): __4th_____

Mentor Teacher: __Kelsi Daffner_____ Week Number: __4_____

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) **I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...**

My activities this week were teaching religion, reading, writing, and English. On Tuesday's and Thursday's I also stay after school and tutor some of the students that may have been struggling academically throughout the day. I also participated in a meeting between a family, Kelsi, and one of the students. The student had been lying about doing his homework and is coming close to failing fourth grade a second time. There was another meeting that I sat in on between the fourth grade teachers about the behavior system. They were trying to determine what would happen if the students did not fulfill all of the requirements of their detention.

2) **My schedule next week...** (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

Next week, I will still be teaching religion, reading, writing, and english, but I will also be adding on Math. This will begin on Wednesday because Kelsi would like to finish up their unit on geometry with them on Monday and Tuesday. Math will be taking place on Wednesday and Friday from 10:50 to 11:50 and Thursday from 8:30-9:40. I will begin teaching them a unit on fractions. Wednesday is when I will give the students a pre-assessment for the RADS.

3) **Overall this week went...** (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week went well, but presented itself with more challenges than the previous weeks. It seemed as though the students were backsliding in the progress they had made with their behaviors over the school year. There were five students caught lying and two more that were cheating on their in class work. Because Saint Marcus holds their students to such high expectations, these offenses were a very big deal. All of these students had to meet with the dean of the primary grades, parents were called, and they all received a detention. In all there were seven students that received a

detention this week. This was also the first week that the students served a detention because of the new behavior system implemented by the fourth grade teachers.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through being more confident in my discipline. There is still room for improvement, but I notice myself becoming more firm with the students. This was good for them to see because then they know that I have the same expectations as their teacher. I had the opportunity to hand out my first detention to a student this week after reading groups. The student was being helped by his peer, who I told to go and help. She was helping him in a very positive and appropriate manner. The students then proceeded to swipe his paper off the table and say that what we were doing was stupid. I told him that that was a very unfortunate thing he just did and that we would talk about it later. The conversation we had actually went very well. I asked him if he agreed that what he did was disrespectful to me and his peer and I asked him if he thought what he did was worthy of a detention and he agreed. I could tell he was very remorseful through his tears, but I was glad that he agreed with what I was saying. I also achieved success through some of my lessons this week. I think that this week had some of my strongest lessons of my student teaching. My energy was a lot higher throughout my lessons, which kept the students engaged, and my hooks have been getting very entertaining which makes the students excited for the lesson.

5) My challenges this week...

My challenges this week have been trying to stay positive throughout the all of the negative behavior. It is always difficult to for me to refocus my energy after dealing with a student that did not do what they were supposed to. I get very frustrated and disappointed because I know that they can do better. It does help when other students in the class come up to me and start talking to me about their day or just come over to say something silly and make me laugh. However, I need to learn how to become more positive on my own and not dwell on the negative things that have happened throughout the day.

6) I have learned that...

I have learned this week that being more consistent with classroom management makes teaching easier. When the students know the expectations set at the beginning of the lesson. the students know exactly when they do something wrong. It also provides structure for them throughout the lesson so that they know what to expect. Setting all of this up at the beginning of the lesson makes it so that during the lesson, I do not have to stop as often to correct small behaviors. I also have learned that when I keep the lesson fast paced. with a lot of energy, all of the students are with me the entire time. They become very excited about the content of the lesson and are engaged throughout my teaching. This is another way in which I can eliminate some small behaviors. I have also learned that it is important for me to not let the lesson become too silly because then the students are not focused on the concepts.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: Abby Wegner

Date: 2/10

School: Saint Marcus Lutheran School

Grade Level(s): 4th

Mentor Teacher: Kelsi Daffner

Week Number: 5

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) **I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...**

This week I taught religion, writing, english, reading, and math. Taking on all of these subjects means that I have now taken over all of the lead teacher instruction responsibilities. Kelsi has started stepping out of the room more often leaving either just me in the room or the teacher's assistant and me. I also have continued to participate in tutoring after school on Tuesday's and Thursday's. This takes place in the classroom with just the fourth grade students. Lastly, I have been attending professional development meetings every Wednesday with the entire staff.

2) **My schedule next week...** (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

My schedule next week will involve attending the same classes that I taught this week at the same time. However, I will only be teaching reading on Thursday and Friday. This is because the students have some scheduled activities during this time during the week. I also will be taking over the reading transitions during the period. Kelsi has been keeping track of the time and ringing the bell that tells the students how much time we have left and when to move to the next group.

3) **Overall this week went...** (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week went very well. I did struggle with a few of the students behaviors and discovering effective ways to discipline them. However, I feel that every time a student and I struggle together, the relationship we have gets stronger. We both see one another at an emotional low, and the student realizes that I hold them to the same standards their lead teacher does. Through this, we were able to become closer and rely more on one another. I also think that this week went well in that I was able to teach all of the lessons throughout the day. I was able to move from lesson to lesson and focus on a new concept quickly. Having back to back class periods does not give me much

time to reset my mind from thinking about religion to math to english. This seemed to go well for me. I am still working on the actual transition for the students, but I think that this will come along in the following weeks.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through teaching all of the lessons throughout the week. At first I was very intimidated by this because teaching seventeen lessons in a week sounded like a lot. It definitely is a lot of work, but I think I did well at managing the amount of lessons. I was also nervous about teaching math because I am unfamiliar with the Common Core strategies used. However, I was able to teach myself the new method and my students did very well this week. In all of my math lessons, my class had a 90% average on their exit tickets. I was very pleased with this. Lastly I achieved success this week through a principal reaching out to me about a kindergarten teaching position for next year. We are currently trying to find a time to meet to talk more about the position. I am also attending a conference tomorrow where I will be able to speak with numerous principals in the Milwaukee area and see what positions they have available.

5) My challenges this week...

My main challenge this week has been remaining patient with the students. I can tell that they are in the point of the year where they are tired of school and need a break. Because of this they have picked up some negative behavior that is starting to get under my skin. I really need to work on staying patient and calm with all of the students. Especially while discipline the students it is important for me to stay positive and not show them that I am getting annoyed. If a student had repeatedly made the same offence, I think it is okay for a teacher to show their frustration depending on the student. Students that care what their teachers think about them, might end up changing their behavior, the students who think it is amusing will continue the behavior. Another challenge that I have had this week is providing closure in my reading and math lessons. It is difficult for me to stop the students while they are working so that I can close the lesson. This is why I usually let them work up until it is time to transition to the next subject. I need to remember that closure in a lesson will help review the concepts for the students and provide a deeper understanding.

6) I have learned that...

I have learned this week how important it is to remain positive through all of the negative situations that may occur throughout the day. When I allow myself to let the negative situations to get the better of me, than I have a bad attitude throughout the day. That is why it is important for me to look for the silver linings in all of the situations I encounter. I have also learned how important it is to form relationships with each student. The relationships are able to be carried into lessons because I know how to engage each student in every lesson. It also helps me to know how to discipline them while I'm teaching as well. I try my best to talk to every student throughout the day so that I can grow and maintain each relationship.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: ___Abby Wegner_____

Date: ___2/17_____

School: ___Saint Marcus Lutheran School_____

Grade Level(s): ___4th_____

Mentor Teacher: ___Kelsi Daffner_____

Week Number: ___6_____

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) **I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...**

I am currently teaching religion, math, english, writing, and reading. I also participated in tutoring some of the students in my class after school on Tuesday and Thursday. There was also a professional development meeting that I went to on Wednesday that was about Saint Marcus's future plans of expansion. On Thursday, I went to Saint Philip's Lutheran school and talked with the principal and pastor about a potential future at that school.

2) **My schedule next week...** (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

My schedule next week will be almost identical to that of last week, except that there will be a field trip on Friday. Because of the field trip, I will only be teaching reading on Friday. I also will have a meeting at Northwest Lutheran School to tour the building and meet some of the staff. This will be to explore the potential of a future with this school. Lastly, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday I will be teaching my edTPA lessons.

3) **Overall this week went...** (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week went well. I can feel myself becoming very comfortable in the classroom and everything is seeming to fall into a comfortable routine. Teaching lessons every day for full days is feeling very natural. I think that it helps that I have been planning things far enough in advance, that I am able to review the night before and morning of what I will be teaching that day. This allows me to have to time to prepare myself for what I will be teaching. Throughout this week I have been able to see a good picture of what it will be like when I have my own classroom.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through the teaching of my lessons. Throughout the week, I could feel my lessons becoming stronger and stronger. The effectiveness of them was shown through the students exit tickets at the end of every lesson. I was receiving very good feedback from this and knew how to improve my lessons the next day. I have also been getting better at having individual conversations with students about behaviors. It is important that I have these conversations so that they know that I am aware of their behavior and that I want them to change it. The students are also able to see that I care enough to take them aside and talk with them about how I know they can be better. Lastly, I achieved success this week through meeting with my first school as well as being contacted by two more schools about touring their buildings. I am very excited to see where the Lord will place me for my first teaching job.

5) My challenges this week...

The challenges I have had this week is that I even though I am very excited about all of the opportunities placed before me, I am feeling very overwhelmed. There are many schools that have shown interest in my teaching at their facility, and I am feeling confused as to which way to go. I know that I need to visit these schools, and see which direction God is calling me. I also need to remind myself to stay focused on the students that I have in the present. They are still coming to me to get an education and I am there to learn how to teach them. The students in my class need to remain my priority. The other thing that I am feeling overwhelmed about is my edTPA. I know that there is a lot weighing on this, so I am worried that it will not be up to the state's standards. I will definitely be glad when it is over.

6) I have learned that...

I have learned this week that the faster my lessons are, the less behaviors I have to deal with. Along with keeping them fast paced, allowing the students opportunities to move throughout the lesson keeps them engaged. I also learned that when I was teaching math, the students did very well with simply watching me do an example problem and then them doing a similar problem with a partner right afterwards. The students seem to have a greater understanding and it is showing on their exit tickets. These are skills that I am working on incorporating in all of my lessons. Lastly, I have learned that when I vocalize the positive things that are happening around me, whether that be behaviors or academics, it puts the students and myself in a better mood. Through vocalizing the positive things happening, I was able to create a positive classroom atmosphere and set an expectation at the same time.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: Abby Wegner Date: 2/24

School: Saint Marcus Lutheran School Grade Level(s): 4th

Mentor Teacher: ___Kelsi Daffner_____ Week Number: ___7_____

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...

I am currently teaching all of the subjects which include religion, English, reading, writing, and math. I did not teach anything on Friday due to a field trip and other pre planned activities. Also, I had helped students on Tuesday and Thursday after school during tutoring.

2) My schedule next week... (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

Next week Saint Marcus does not have school due to their winter break, so I will be coming back to Minnesota for a short visit. The following week is when I will begin to give back subjects to Kelsi. The first subject that I will be giving up is religion. I will continue to teach English, reading, writing, and math.

3) Overall this week went... (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week was very stressful. I completed my EdTPA lessons this week as well as the video recordings. I struggled with some of the recordings because they didn't always meet the state requirements. In addition to this, I had my first official interview with Northwest Lutheran School on Thursday. Both of these things and teaching my lessons made me feel very overwhelmed throughout the week.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through completing my first official interview. It went very well and the school has a K4 position opening as well as an associate teacher. Both of these positions appeal to me and I am excited about the possibility. The interview ended with both the dean and principal saying that they would be in contact with me in the near future. I also achieved success this week by finishing the actual completion of filming my EdTPA videos. It was quite a hassle, but I finally completed it on Wednesday. Finally, I achieved success this week through the pacing of my lessons. In all of my lessons, I was able to get all of the components that I wanted into it as well as having time for some enrichment activities. In reading especially, I had some pre planned activities to do if my instruction ended early. I felt very prepared because in almost all of my reading groups, they picked up on the concepts rather quickly. Therefore I had some additional activities to keep the lesson moving and enrich the content.

5) My challenges this week...

My challenges this week was trying to stay calm while stressing out about my EdTPA and interview. I also wanted to make sure that I was still investing enough time and energy into my lessons and my students. I wanted to make sure that I was getting my work done, as well as educating them. This added on another stressful thing for me to keep track of, yet it was very necessary. My other challenge this week was trying to focus and write the other lessons that I was teaching this week. I felt that I was not able to have enough time to adequately prepare all of my lessons. I had enough time to right them, but not always review them before I taught them. However, I did feel very supported because the primary staff knew that I was working on this and gave lots of encouraging words.

6) I have learned that...

I have learned this week that I was blessed with a tremendous group of students. They knew that I was little stressed this week because of all of the things I was doing. I told them about my videos, because they asked why I was filming them. Throughout the week, I received more than the usual amount of hugs and "I love you's" than normal. My students definitely carried my stressed out self through the week. This is the kind of classroom culture that I hope to make in my own room. I could see the mutual respect that the students and I had for each other. I have been there to pick them up, and now they were here to pick me up when I needed them. It will be very hard to leave them at the end of my clinical. I have also learned this week that within my lessons, it is good to make fun of myself or just say exactly what I am thinking. The students think it is funny or they can relate because they might have been thinking the same thing. This keeps them engaged in the lesson. Another thing that I like to do is be super dramatic or way over the top. This might include being extremely excited if they get an answer right or if they make a mistake that I know they can do better, being dramatically alarmed. This also engages them and incorporates humor in the lesson.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: Abby Wegner

Date: 3/10

School: Saint Marcus Lutheran School

Grade Level(s): 4th

Mentor Teacher: Kelsi Daffner

Week Number: 9

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...

The subjects that I taught this week were math, reading, and writing. I was supposed to teach English as well, but the students needed to use this time to work on a science project. I also participated in two job interviews this week that went very well. Lastly, I have been working hard on my EdTPA.

2) My schedule next week... (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

Because I am in the process of handing back my classes to Kelsi, my schedule will be slightly different. Originally I was going to give back writing and English next week, but after talking with Kelsi I will be giving up reading. This is so that I won't have to continue teaching the main core subjects and she can begin to transition back into those kinds of classes.

3) Overall this week went... (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week went very well. My EdTPA is coming along nicely and I am getting close to being finished with it. As I get closer to the end of my EdTPA, I am feeling less stressed. The majority of my lessons also seemed to go smoothly, and if it did not I was able to collaborate with Kelsi about next steps. Students this week were also rather pleasant and fun to work with. They seemed to be very engaged and excited about what I was teaching, which made me feel very energetic during my lessons.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through getting very good feedback from one of the primary administrators. I felt very honored that she specifically wanted to come and watch me teach and give me feedback. She gave me a fresh perspective of my teaching and had drawn some things to my attention that I could improve. All of the feedback that she gave me was data driven, which seemed to be very effective. Since her observation of my teaching, I have had other administrators come to me and tell me that they are pleased with my work. Another way in which I achieved success was with the effectiveness of my math lesson on Friday. All of my students received 100% on their exit ticket, which I felt very excited about. The students throughout the lesson were very energetic which made the lesson very fun. Lastly, I achieved success this week through two interviews that went very well. The first interview was for a network of Catholic schools. An hour after my interview, I was informed that I would be making it to the next round of interviews. The second interview was for a Christian school in Milwaukee. After this interview, the principal said that they would be contacting me as soon as they have a

position available. I was very pleased with both of these interviews.

5) My challenges this week...

My challenge this week was knowing when to walk away in a power struggle. This is something that I have been getting better at during my time here, but is still something that I need to work on. I notice the power struggle mostly when I catch the student doing something they are not supposed to be doing. The student usually gasps and tries to deny what just happened. This is also when an eye roll,

lip smack, or grumpy face may come into play. My immediate gut reaction is to reason with the student and tell them what I saw. However, even though this sometimes works, I feel that I shouldn't have to tell the student what I saw them doing. Whether they admit it or not, they know exactly what they did. Therefore, I would like to work on addressing it and then moving on with my lesson.

6) I have learned that...

I have learned this week that the teacher's attitude has a big impact on how the students attitudes are. This is something that I have known, but was made very clear to me this week. I noticed that as soon as I started to let my energy and excitement come down during a lesson, the students would too. It is important that I also look interested and excited about what I am teaching because the students will inturn be interested in what they are learning. The energy levels in these Milwaukee classrooms is very different from those that I have experienced in Mankato. I have really grown to like the high intensity style of teaching because it's not only fun for the students, but I have more fun teaching this way.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: Abby Wegner

Date: 3/18

School: Saint Marcus Lutheran School Grade Level(s): 4th

Mentor Teacher: Kelsi Daffner

Week Number: 10

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...

I am currently teaching math, writing and English. However, the students did not have English this week due to a science project they were trying to finish. I also participated in a group and one on one interview for the Seton Catholic school network. Lastly, I assisted students with their homework in afterschool tutoring.

2) My schedule next week... (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

Next week, I am giving back math to Kelsi, so I am now only in charge of writing and English. However, Kelsi is going on an immersion tour and will be gone on Tuesday and Wednesday. Because of this, the

TA and I will be splitting the classes taught on those days. On Tuesday, I will be teaching writing and reading and on Wednesday I will be teaching reading, math, and English. Also, I have an interview with the LUMIN school network because I am applying to three of their schools. Lastly, I have spoken with some of the middle school teachers and they have said that I can come and watch some of their lessons to prepare myself for my next clinical.

3) Overall this week went... (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week went very well. This week was teacher appreciation week, so there were many fun activities planned for the teachers, as well as having a dress down all week. Because of this, it seemed that myself and all of the other staff was in a much better mood. The students also were pretty well behaved for the majority of the week. I had to have a couple of critical conversations with some of them, but the students were then able to turn their day around after this. Lastly, I have been learning more of the students names in other classes and have been able to form relationships with them as well. This creates a more welcoming environment for myself when I walk into the building because there are so many students that greet me every morning, and I greet them as well.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through receiving very positive feedback from observers in Kelsi's room. There was a group of teachers from Indianapolis that watched me teach math. One of the observers came up to me afterwards and told me that she thought I was the actual classroom teacher and that I was doing a great job. I also had another administrator come and watch me teach. She gave me some very good feedback of what I was doing well and feedback about how I can help my students better understand my objectives. Another way I achieved success was through my interview. I was very nervous for this interview because I had never participated in a group interview. The activity they had us participate in was how to raise a specific school's attendance. This ended up going very well and I was able to collaborate with people I had known for five minutes. The one on one interview also was successful and I am very intrigued with what this network has to offer.

5) My challenges this week...

The challenges I had this week was not becoming too goofy during my lessons. This was very easy to do because of all of the teacher appreciation activities occurring. I want my lessons to be fun for me and the students, but I was sometimes letting them get too out of hand. Then I would have to waste some of the lesson time to bring the students back in and then reprimanding some of those who could not control themselves. I want to work on finding the balance of focusing on the content and having fun within the lesson. There was also a specific lesson that I really struggled with in math. This was supposed to be an easy lesson for the students, which was adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator. I have seen the students do this before and almost the entire class has been successful with this in the past. During the lesson, many students began to shut down because they became confused. The problem I had was that I did not know what the students were confused about. When I walked them through it, they told me that it made sense. I then had one student that came

close to tears and another student that I sent out of the room because she became defiant and started to talk over me during the lesson. I

did not know how to help them because the students were not explaining to me what they were confused about.

6) I have learned that...

I have learned that it is important to have fun during my lessons because it helps the students stay engaged, but this fun still needs to have structure and cannot take over the lesson. This is because then the students become focused on the fun and not the concept. Therefore, there has to be a balance between the two. I have also learned that it is important to learn the about students in surrounding classrooms. This helps me to insert myself into the school culture and become apart of the team and family. Doing this will also be important to do in the school I will work in, hopefully next year.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: __Abby Wegner__

Date: __3/24__

School: __Saint Marcus Lutheran School__

Grade Level(s): __4th__

Mentor Teacher: __Kelsi Daffner__

Week Number: __11__

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...

This week I taught two math lessons, an English lesson, and two short reading lessons. Kelsi was gone for two days on an immersion tour, so the teacher's assistant and I split the subjects. I also had a interview with the head of the LUMIN network as well as the principal of Granville. This went very well and I am very interested in the possibility of the kind of job I could have through this network.

2) My schedule next week... (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

My schedule for the next two weeks will be to observe, or help in the classroom whenever I am needed. I also plan to observe in the middle school classrooms to prepare myself for the next clinical.

This will also be a time when I complete my RADS and HR reports. Lastly, I will be participating in a phone interview with a principal that I met with a few weeks ago.

3) Overall this week went... (provide professional, insightful reflections)

This week had a lot of successes and frustrations. The second day that Kelsi was gone, the students were in a very odd mood. I think that this was partially due to their teacher being gone and a drastic change in their schedule. Besides that, the week went very well. I feel very satisfied with my last lessons that I taught for this teaching experience. I can definitely tell that I have grown in my teaching ability through planning, pacing, and management. I am very excited to see what kind of a future I will have in urban education.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through my interview that I had with the LUMIN network. After the interview, I received a very positive email from the principal of Granville and I am very interested in working there. I also achieved success this week through working with the TA to run the classroom while Kelsi was gone. This gave me a good idea as to how I could run a classroom with a co teacher. Even though the students were not always on their best behavior, the both of us successfully got through the two days. Lastly, I achieved success this week through being more consistent with merits and demerits. This is still something that I need to work on, but it has been improving throughout my time here.

5) My challenges this week...

The main challenge I had this week was managing the attitudes of the students while Kelsi was gone. This was exceptionally frustrating while teaching and leading them in transitions. They were very unwilling to participate and seemed exceptionally sassy. There were also problems with fighting both verbally and physically, which normally isn't a problem. It took a lot more effort on my part to engage the students in a lesson because of this. The attitudes of the students also tested my patience and it was difficult for me to remain calm through some of the situations that arose.

6) I have learned that...

I have learned this week that students will have off days, just as I have off days. Sometimes this is numerous days in a row and I need to learn how to accommodate them. The students needs will change from week to week and I need to be able to meet them where they are that day. This was made prevalent to me when one of the students came in looking rather upset. Instead of scolding him for not doing his job the first time, I asked him to come with me to get some coffee. On the way down he said he was running late this morning and his mom scolded him for not having his tie. He was also concerned because he missed breakfast this morning and wouldn't eat again till lunch. After hearing that, I took him back to the classroom and found him a snack. This immediately changed his attitude and the look on his face. It is important to continue to hold students to high expectations and not allow them to have excuses. However, it is also my job as the teacher to help them learn as much as possible, and a poor attitude will not allow me to do that. Talking with the students instead of

disciplining them all of the time helps the teacher and the student to get to the root of the problem and move on.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: __Abby Wegne____ Date: __3/31____

School: __Saint Marcus Lutheran School____ Grade Level(s): __4th____

Mentor Teacher: __Kelsi Daffner____ Week Number: __12____

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills, problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) **I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...**

I am currently not teaching anything. Instead I have been serving as a support to Kelsi and taking the students to some of their specials like gym, art, and music. I also took this time to complete and turn in my EdTPA as well as work on my HR and RADS reports. This week I also participated in a follow up interview at Granville Lutheran where they officially offered me a job. Seton Catholic Schools also offered me a job, so I will have to make some decisions very soon. Lastly, I started observing in the 7th grade classrooms to start prepping myself for my next clinical.

2) **My schedule next week...** (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

My schedule next week will consist of teaching religion on Monday and observing in more 7th grade classrooms. I also have another follow up interview at HOPE Fidelis that will be more interactive with a mock parent teacher conference.

3) **Overall this week went...** (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week went very well. I am not quite sure that I am emotionally ready for this experience to be over. My kids have made a huge impact on me and I know that I will miss them a lot. It is more than just my students that I will miss, but students from other classes as well as the staff. I felt very supported physically, emotionally, and spiritually at Saint Marcus, and I know that I have gained so much from them that has made me a better teacher.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week by handing in my EdTPA. I felt a lot of relief after it was completed and was extremely relaxed. Another way in which I achieved success was through settling a situation with two boys in my class. I had asked one of the boys to go to the dean because he had a very poor attitude and then I had watched him push another student. I later found out the other boy had also shoved the student. Therefore, before we went to the dean, we all had to get our story straight. The conversation we had was very productive and calm. After one of the students said their story, the other student had to respond first with, "I agree with..." then they could begin the prompt, "I disagree with..." This kept the conversation positive and we were all able to agree on what had actually happen. Lastly, I achieved success in receiving two job offers this week. I am going to have to make some big decisions soon.

5) My challenges this week...

My challenges this week was remaining patient with the students during the handing in of my EdTPA. I kept having glitches with my portfolio like up like scanning wrong documents and my videos were not always cooperating. My computer was also having some problems of its own that made the project difficult. Through this process, I started to become short with some of the students, when I should have had a different attitude. However, the students could tell that I was stressed and they would either give me a hug or rub my back. This also shows how awesome of a class I was working with.

6) I have learned that...

This week I have learned how important establishing a positive classroom culture is. The students do not have respect for one another and their teacher on their own. This has been established through the classroom culture. Through this culture, all of the students and teachers are supported by one another. They hold one another accountable and work through difficult problems together. Kelsi has done an excellent job of establishing this kind of culture and I will have to ask her what she did to get there.

BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: Abby Wegner

Date: 4/7

School: Saint Marcus Lutheran School

Grade Level(s): 4

Mentor Teacher: Kelsi Daffner Week Number: 13

Submit this form each week during your student teaching experiences. It provides a way for you to summarize your weekly written reflections about insights, new understandings, acquired skills,

problems, and successes during the previous week. **Be specific** since this is an opportunity to practice self-analysis in such areas as relationships with students and relationships with your supervising teacher and other school personnel. It also demonstrates your planning and how you are working toward personal goals. **Upload this to Moodle by 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday of each week.**

1) I am currently teaching and/or my activities were...

I currently did not have any teaching duties. Occasionally I would do some individually work with students that were not comprehending concepts taught that day. I also did some chores for Kelsi in the classroom. I've spent a lot of time this week working on my portfolio, speaking with my next placement teacher, and talking to future employers.

2) My schedule next week... (include a detailed teaching / activity schedule)

Next week, I will be observing at Saint Clair Secondary in Mr. Ziegler's 7th grade classroom. I will be spending the majority of my time acclimating the culture of his classroom and getting to know the students.

3) Overall this week went... (provide professional, insightful reflections)

Overall this week was very bitter sweet. It was difficult to part with my students on Friday and I know that I will miss them a lot. Because the students knew that I was leaving this week, they went through a lot of mood swings, which is expected. I felt so much love on my last day because the students gave me so many gifts, wrote me love notes, and verbally said how much they appreciated my being there. They are already eagerly attempting my return in May after graduation to visit them and I am sure that I will be receiving many phone calls from them. There were also a ton of staff members that gave me hugs and wished me the best as I was leaving. At the morning devotion, the whole entire staff prayed for me as I go on to my next clinical and future employment plans. I was truly blessed by my placement at Saint Marcus and know that I have gained so much from them.

4) I achieved success this week...

I achieved success this week through the completion of my Saint Marcus student teaching placement. This makes me one more step closer to graduation, and I am very excited. I also achieved success this week by receiving three more job offers. The schools that want me to work for them are Saint Marcus, Northwest Lutheran School, and Hope Fidelis. I am very proud of how I have been able to acquire so many job offers, yet I have a very difficult decision to make.

5) My challenges this week...

My challenges this week was definitely saying goodbye to my students. They had a very difficult time comprehending why I had to leave and they constantly asked me to stay. If I had the option, I would, without a doubt, stay with them and finish the year with them. All I could do is tell them I loved them, let them know it was going to be okay, and remind them of my return some time in May. My students will also be live streaming my graduation, which they are looking forward to. The other challenge I

have been struggling with, is trying to decide between five job offers. It has been very difficult trying to determine where I think I will learn and grow the most. The other problem is that I am on a time crunch because some of the employers have only given me two weeks to decide, and I have a week left since the offer was made. I have been doing a lot of self reflection and praying, but I still have not decided on a school.

6) I have learned that...

This week I have learned how much a school culture can affect a person. Saint Marcus has established such a positive, loving, and caring environment. This made it very hard to leave today because the students and staff were so supportive of everything that I had to do. Whether I was lesson planning or working on my EdTPA everyone on the staff was ready to help me in anyway that they could. Because of this, I know that while I am deciding on a place to work, it is important to find a school in which I feel loved and supported like this. I also have learned that while it is important to be vulnerable with students, it is also important to be strong for them. Students seemed to take a lot of comfort in my reassuring them that they will be okay without me there.