

# BLC EDUC495/496 Student Teaching

## Weekly Reflection

Student Teacher: Trevor Larson      Date:2/4

School: Maple River West Elementary      Grade Level(s):5th

Mentor Teacher:Mrs. Shoemaker      Week Number:4th

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

I am currently teaching life science. We have been working recently animal's adaptations and also plant adaptations. The last few days students have been identifying how adaptations are important for their existence in their habitats. I also introduced the habitat game to the students. While they enjoy it and learn from it, they also tend to take it a bit too far. This week I also have been reading aloud a novel to the students. Mrs. Shoemaker has let the students work on things while she reads. I changed that in order to have the students full attention.

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

Next week we will be shifting our focus onto energy pyramids and food chains. I hope to by the end of the week to get into how changes in ecosystems change their structure. Students will also on Tuesday or Wednesday have a chance to present their findings on their research on certain ecosystems and how they work with plants and animals to make life possible. It is going to be a little bit different of a week , on Friday we are going skiing the whole day.

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

This week went well, the students were engaged and met most of, if not all of my objectives. Mr. Soma's class was has fallen a lesson behind Mrs. Shoemakers. That is because of an assembly, and a fundraiser that the students went to. My goal for next week is to catch up Mr. Soma's class so that we can review, and test on the same days. Reflecting on my lessons, there was at times where I needed to be more detailed in my instruction, or possibly demonstrate what I expected. I know that the majority of students understood, but there are still a couple that needed clarification.

### 4)      **I achieved success this week...**

I achieved success this week in developing a trusting relationship with all of my students. I have been trying to talk and engage each student one on one. I was able to do that and really get to know each student on a more personal level. With this knowledge and trust, I hope to make the

students feel more comfortable and at ease. With this knowledge I can also further to better my instruction and lesson plans to tailor them towards the students.

**5) My challenges this week...**

I had a student who had a rough couple of days. Mrs. Shoemaker previously had asked the student to leave the room. He was unable to control himself that day, and was distracting the other students. Later in the week, (Wednesday) I also had to remove him from the class. I would tell him one thing and he would do the opposite. After talking with the student it seemed as if he was just having an off week. I told him that we all have off days and weeks, and that I would not hold this against him. I also told him that when we are having off days and weeks, that we should talk about it to get it off of our chests.

**6) I have learned that...**

That it is better to be compassionate and place myself in the students shoes. I needed to recognize that sometimes there is outside stuff affecting the student's behavior. It is easy to jump on a student when they are misbehaving or acting out. It is much harder to take a step back and ask yourself, why is he or she acting like this? Could there be an outside factor? The more I get to know these students the more they will open up and let myself into their lives. I need to stay compassionate and understanding to get the most out of my students.