

Teacher Write-Ups 9/18/18

1-2 Class

We are off and rolling in the Grades 1&2 class with new students, curriculum and routines. I have twenty students, three are Independent Study. It is very nice to have such a manageable number of seats each day and to have my amazing aide, Ms. Becca back this year. We are a great team.

I am very happy with our new Wit & Wisdom language Arts curriculum. It is challenging, engaging and encourages deep thinking with the students. I am learning more each day how to teach it effectively. I have also implemented a new phonics program, Wilson Reading's Fundamentals which has great promise to be effective with my students learning to read. The new interactive white board is an exciting addition to the classroom.

We had some behavior struggles in first few weeks with specific students. I am happy to report that I feel more supported than ever in dealing with these issues having Ms. Bart and Mr. Coy's involvement. We are working with the parents to meet the needs of these students while not sacrificing the learning experience of the rest of the class.

All in all it's off to a great start. Thanks for your service as we start this new school year!

Thank You,
Kim

3-4 Class

The new Wit and Wisdom curriculum is in full swing. The depth and complexity is very challenging for the students. We are currently working in a text entitled, The Circulatory Story, a very science based text with comical colorful illustrations. In speaking with the rest of our teachers, we feel that as the students get used to the demands, routines, language, and pass through each grade, we will (teachers and students) be able to manage these demands of the curriculum more efficiently. After all, students will expect the language, the rigor, and the systems contained within it as each year passes.

In math, I'm introducing the concepts of multiplication for the third graders in Chapter 4 of the My Math books. The fourth graders are in different places in the curriculum and I'm teaching mini lessons on various topics including place value, rounding, addition strategies, subtraction strategies, and skills review from last year.

Students wrote amazing Paul Bunyan sequels which are now on display in the classroom. The fourth graders outdid themselves with several submissions between 10-20 pages of hand written story-telling. They also really look forward to our local community history time, which is a time when we choral read, and discuss local history events in a book which they then illustrate.

The new wood folding tables in the room are working out well, and I would love to expand on that theme. The Smart Board is ASTONISHING and I use it every day in multiple ways. I don't know how we ever lived without it, and what an enormous difference from my old, tired projector with the laptop and limited sound projection. WOW!

5-6 Class

Good afternoon, Board Members,

This is going to be a great year. The kids are cheerful, enthusiastic, and ready to learn. Right now, we are researching Fort Bragg history in preparation for Spirit Week in October. Our class is focusing on the railways so the students are exploring types of trains, lines, and bridges, as well as mill towns and maps of railway lines. Next Wednesday we will be taking a field trip to the Fort Bragg Rail Museum and a ride on the Skunk Train. In other news, we are getting into the new Language Arts curriculum, and so far I'm thrilled. The kids are learning how to find evidence in the text in order to support their arguments. This single skill can significantly improve their writing over time. I think we're off to a great start.

Cheers,
Linda Tulley

7-8 (High School) Class

Junior High Class Write Up

The school year has started off well. Both of us are working out the bugs in team teaching throughout the day. Our biggest issue is managing noise levels as we work to teach both the 7th and 8th graders their English and Math standards separately, but within the same periods of the day. So far our system involves one of us giving direct instruction to one of these groups while the other students are working independently on silent work with the other teacher moving around the room quietly helping. This still leaves room for distraction for the students who are working independently. We are working on ways to solve that problem of background noise that distracts students.

We are enjoying sharing instruction for Science and History and P.E. For these subjects all the 7th and 8th graders are working together. We are excited to have successfully got our electives up and running. The two most popular are newspaper and gardening. We are going to be bringing back a printed school newspaper to share with all of the classes - we haven't had that since we were at our original Virgin Creek campus!

We successfully completed NWEA testing and will be looking at those results to see how we can personalize education plans for each of the students.

We love!!!! the new smart board as it has completely solved all of our projection issues from the past few years. It is easily visible from anywhere in the classroom and its aps are making our instruction more energetic. The convenience of getting to move easily back and forth between Google, the white board, and downloaded documents is making everything faster and more interesting for the kids.

The high school students are moving along fine, successfully staying on pace. We are even working in ways for them to do some live classes: work experience, and p.e.

Let us know if you have any questions. We would love to have you stop by and visit our classroom any time.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kasperson
& Dani Krebs