

Title of Session: Teachers In Training

Moderator: Dianne Allen

Title of File: 20070301tnt

Date: March 1, 2007

Room: After School Online

BJB2: welcome to today's first Teachers in Training discussion!

BJB2: you are all going to be laying the foundation for the future of the group

DianneA: and welcome one and all to today's session of Teachers in Training

DianneA: Can we make a start by introducing ourselves , telling where we are from, and what area of teaching we are currently interested in

CarolynNe: From Simi Valley, CA student teaching first grade want third

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania and teach remedial communication

DianneA: I am from Wollongong NSW, I have been working with pre-service K-6 teachers and have an interest in professional formation and development and in reflective research of practice

GregSi: From Simi valley teaching 4th grade

ElizabethG: I am from Camarillo, California and student teaching in the 5th grade

LiseU: I am in Thousand Oaks, CA, teaching 4th grade in Moorpark, want upper grades

LindseySt: I am from Moorpark California, student teaching 3rd grade in Simi Valley, prefer 3rd-5th

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a Help Desk volunteer in Tapped In and I lead a discussion about math education. I'm in New Jersey, close to New York City

MaureenF: I'm in Simi Valley teaching 6th grade at an elementary school.

DianneA: well thanks every one

DianneA: now last time this group met at this time ...

DianneA: they managed themselves

CarolynNe: yes

CarolynNe: lol

DianneA: Carolyn would you like to share how you found that session ... how helpful was it for you?

DianneA: what made you come back?

CarolynNe: Well it is part of our seminar for the university we attend

DianneA cheeky!

CarolynNe: I do find this helpful though

MaureenF: It's much better than meeting at the school once a week!

CarolynNe: sorry I didn't mean to be cheeky

DianneA: in what way, exactly?

GregSi: I did not find this helpful. I am doing this for school.

DianneA: I was being cheeky!

DianneA nods to Greg

GregSi: I need face to face interaction.

DianneA: what would it need to do to be helpful for you Greg?

CarolynNe: Oh see I am used to this type of interaction

LiseU: Do we have a topic tonight?

DianneA: can you tell me why f-t-f is so important for you, Greg?

DianneA: Lise, have you a topic for tonight?

ElizabethG: Well this is new to me and I am happy to try this out although I also do agree with Greg and Maureen, if that's possible

GregSi: I can not type very fast. so this is hard for me .

DavidWe needs f-t-f interaction, but...

DavidWe . o O (it's not a race, Greg)

DianneA nods to David and Greg

LiseU: Hmm. topic...

CarolynNe: How are you guys feeling about interviews coming up?

DianneA: have you seen the photos that help put faces to the text here, Greg?

LindseySt: I am pretty used to this type of interaction as well... I accidently missed out on the meeting last time

MaureenF: nervous about the interviews.

LiseU: I am wondering about the interviews.

CarolynNe: Yeah me too!

LindseySt: I agree with Greg though, it is also nice to have face-to-face interaction as well

CarolynNe: I talked to Mrs. Vale today about what they may ask me.

CarolynNe: Scary stuff. I need to sit and think for a while.

DianneA . o O (all interviews are always hard ...)

MaureenF: Do you want to share any of what Mrs. Vale told you?

DianneA . o O (it is not knowing what they want of you)

CarolynNe: Let me get the paper.

GregSi: I felt good about doing interviews but I do not think that there are going to be very many jobs opening in my area.

ElizabethG: The convenience about this is, we get a chance to hear from other people in other areas of the country which is nice and refreshing.

LindseySt: I am very disappointed in hearing that many of the local school districts will not be hiring this year

DavidWe . o O (yes!!)

CarolynNe: That is true Elizabeth

BJB2 . o O (did Dianne mention that she's in Australia?)

CarolynNe: Oh yes she did!

ElizabethG: No she didn't

LiseU: My cooperating teacher said she (in a different Univ.) had lots of subbing opportunities prior to interviewing - it really helped her.

BJB2: concerns are an international phenom

CarolynNe: last time

CarolynNe: Okay here is what she said

CarolynNe: Classroom Management - Be Proactive!!! Stop the problem before it starts!
Mention J.D.

ElizabethG: I would like to ask Dianne about her experience in education as far as parent communication goes

MaureenF: I had a thought the other day, that the reason many people go into teaching is because they want to help children learn. So ... If you are doing that right now, and if you do that when you substitute, then you are fulfilling your dream, even if you don't get a job right away!

LiseU: Who said that?

CarolynNe: Mrs. Vale did

ElizabethG: I do agree with you Maureen

LindseySt: I would really want to hear about the parent communication as well!

CarolynNe: okay

DianneA: Elizabeth ... it is a long time since I was directly active in the school situation where there was a parent-teacher night, once a year

MaureenF: I'd like to hear what Mrs. Vale said

DianneA: It was new for me, and quite stressful

LindseySt: I was looking to possibly do more substituting before getting a solid job personally, so I am disappointed, but not in a sense.

LiseU: I'd like to hear what Mrs. Vale said, too.

DianneA: parents and teachers collaborating about a child's education is very important, for the child's sake

CarolynNe: What drives your lessons? Have a typical Language Arts lesson in mind.

CarolynNe: Think about what you do everyday in you classroom.

ElizabethG: Well to be honest I would love to get a job because of the reason Maureen mentioned earlier. I love working with children and although you get the experience while substituting it's not quite the same.

CarolynNe: Technology! Tell them you use it!

LiseU: Carolyn, are you asking all of us?

GregSi: I love my job but I need a full time teaching position.

CarolynNe: No these are interview questions

LiseU: I also need a full time teaching position

DianneA . o O (agrees with Elizabeth, it is not the same, continuity is vital to classroom management, for relationship building, and then for learning)

GregSi: It's hard to use technology when it is not in the classroom.

DianneA: who is Mrs Vale Carolyn?

CarolynNe: Yes

CarolynNe: Oh she is the principal of the school I am at

CarolynNe: we are at

DianneA: and she shared these as possible themes, and preparation for what might be asked at interviews?

LiseU: Did she give you a mini-seminar in interviewing, Carolyn?

MaureenF: Thanks Carolyn for sharing

CarolynNe: Yes, I went to her today and told her I have an interview next week

LiseU: Good for you!

CarolynNe: thanks

LindseySt: Wow, an interview already? Good job and I wish for the best

DianneA: at first I thought the questions looked 'funny' to me

CarolynNe: Yeah they are interview questions

DianneA: but now I see a few, I can see important themes coming through ...

LiseU: Can we ask, what district? I know you are looking in a wide geographic area.

CarolynNe: Valencia area

DianneA: Principals who are interviewing are trying to find out something about you, and about your approach to teaching

LiseU: There are probably many more opportunities there - I wish you the best.

MaureenF: Lots of growth in Valencia!

ElizabethG: What I'm nervous about in the interview process is will they ask me to present a lesson.

CarolynNe: yes there is

CarolynNe: I have 2 interviews there

CarolynNe: they will ask in the final interview

DianneA: as well as get a feel for what your teaching skills and strengths might be to consider whether you will fit a hole that they have at that school

ElizabethG: I have heard from newly hired teachers in the last two to three years that they had to present one.

DianneA: If that is the case, Elizabeth .. that is good

LiseU: A language arts lesson?

MaureenF: That's okay, don't be nervous, remember you have been in the classroom teaching!

CarolynNe: if you want

GregSi: Carolyn are you going to bring a portfolio with you showing lesson plans?

CarolynNe: I was thinking about it.

DianneA: I have interviewed prospective employees who can talk but not do, it is an expensive lesson to make a mistake as an employer

LiseU: Are you bringing laptop w/connection to Webfolio to show?

CarolynNe: No.

GregSi: I wonder what Mrs. Vale would say about that.

DianneA: my advice if you get asked to teach is to teach the children, and try and forget about the Principal etc

CarolynNe: I should ask

LiseU: I've heard it is important to have something to show.

ElizabethG: That reminds me what else can you include in your portfolio besides your resume, letters of recommendation, evaluations, and test scores.

DianneA: but I know that is hard!!!

CarolynNe: Lesson plans

DianneA: some lesson material you have prepared and presented Elizabeth

MaureenF: I think including lessons that you have written is a great idea.

LiseU: Which is hard, Dianne? (this is the trick with chat, no?)

DianneA: it is hard to forget the adults you are trying to impress to win the job

GregSi: What about classroom management rules and back to school night info etc.

LiseU: Oh, yeah.

ElizabethG: Dianne would you suggest that we ask questions in return if so what type of questions should we ask a district that is interviewing us.

DianneA: but it is important to do the job properly to forget that and to focus on the children and their learning

CarolynNe: yeah you will just need to talk about it I think

DianneA: Yes Lise, you have worked out the trick with chat!

DianneA lol

LiseU: So - lesson plans, plus all the other obvious paperwork.

LiseU: Any thing else?

DianneA: Elizabeth - what sorts of things would you like to know?

CarolynNe: yes.

ElizabethG: Lesson plans, classroom management plan, and philosophy maybe?

DianneA: be what you are, that is your main asset as a prospective teacher

CarolynNe: I like that Dianne

DianneA wonders if David and Bj have any other thoughts, from their experience.

GregSi: Philosophy that's a good idea. I will bring that.

LiseU: Carolyn, (review, yes) did Mrs. Vale say what she would be looking for, as a prospective employer?

ElizabethG: Well, do districts like when we inquire about them and if so what kind of questions do they like to hear from us? Example is there a school wide behavioral plan?

CarolynNe: Not really.

CarolynNe: I was going to ask those questions

GregSi: No every school seems to be different.

LiseU: They do - I agree.

ElizabethG: What other questions can we ask to make sure we make an impression?

CarolynNe: Something about the population

CarolynNe: the surrounding community I think

DianneA: Elizabeth, districts would like if you knew a bit about them and asked a question that is important to you, and shows that you know a bit about them, and what you think is important about them and you working with them ...

LiseU: Carolyn, does the student teacher club deal with these topics?

GregSi: Do we need to know about the district like their test scores, student population, diversity for the interview?

CarolynNe: yes

CarolynNe: to Lise I mean

LiseU: I really wanted to go on Monday - but was swamped that night.

ElizabethG: I heard that Arroyo Elementary use to assist student teachers with the interview process by giving them pointers and practice interviews.

CarolynNe: I wish they still did

LindseySt: That would be very helpful if that is still the case, Elizabeth.

MaureenF: I heard that Arroyo used to be very helpful. I also heard though that they rated student teachers from best to worse.

LiseU: Did anyone go to Pleasant Valley yesterday? I figured it was cancelled, since they wouldn't be interviewing, per Dr. Fraser.

ElizabethG: They would also set up official interviews for their student teachers and the principals from other Simi Valley Unified schools in order to help them get in the district.

GregSi: I think that they should since they are a professional development school.

DianneA: Greg, rather than worry about those sorts of 'detail' things, something to explore your philosophy and their philosophy and how it matches would be good. Remember, as an interviewee, you also need to know what you are getting yourself into when accepting a job

MaureenF: I agree with Dianne. You don't want to begin working in a district that you will dread 3 years later.

CarolynNe: This is what I am afraid of

ElizabethG: They do not set this up anymore because it's not worth it for the principals to come out and only interview four student teachers.

ElizabethG: I think as part of one of our seminars we should have our own practice interviews

MaureenF: Yes to Elizabeth. I guess they should have more student teachers.

GregSi: They could do it because Dr Fraser use to work in the H.R. Department

CarolynNe: what Greg?

MaureenF: All of this talk is not really directed at teaching.

DianneA notices that she is breaking her 'chat rule' by not asking questions, but by giving advice

DianneA winks at Lise

LiseU: Another topic ?

LiseU: How are your takeovers - pre/takeovers going?"

MaureenF: Is your room teacher centered? or student centered?

DianneA hands the moderating over to Lise

CarolynNe: Student centered

GregSi: My room is teacher centered.

CarolynNe: we talked about this at the last seminar

LiseU: hey now, wait a minute! (to Dianne)

MaureenF: My pre-takeover feels very busy. I am ignoring my own children at home.

LiseU: Yes, happening here too.

LindseySt: Pre-takeovers are extremely busy, I left Arroyo at 5:10 today.

ElizabethG: My pretakeover is coming along okay

CarolynNe: Yes I am busy too.

CarolynNe: I never leave that late, my teacher wants to leave at 2:30 everyday

GregSi: My pre-take over is going OK.

LiseU: Do you have enough time w/your cooperating teachers re: lesson planning?

MaureenF: I shouldn't complain though. It could be worse. At least my drive is short.

ElizabethG: I feel that I'm restricted to teach exactly like my cooperating teacher and not allowed to experiment not even a little.

ElizabethG: I thought that's what student teaching was all about especially since we are in a professional school

CarolynNe: Yes, I make a lesson and she looks at it to make sure we are good

MaureenF: I feel that I do have enough time with my cooperating teacher. She lets me have a lot of free range and she has great resources.

LiseU: I start my teaching Monday, then add a subject each week.

CarolynNe: Yeah I can do what I want/need to.

LindseySt: I feel like I never have enough time with my cooperating teacher.

MaureenF: Wow, Lindsey! even though you stayed until 5 pm?

ElizabethG: I finally taught a full day this week and I think it went well. It definitely increased my confidence level for my takeover

LindseySt: I brought home a few things to work on still this evening, because we didn't get them finished this afternoon

LiseU: Good for you, Elizabeth. When is your takeover?

CarolynNe: Yeah I have been subbing for her sometimes

CarolynNe: So I think I am ok.

LindseySt: Wow! Good job Elizabeth

LiseU: Good for you, too, Carolyn.

GregSi: My cooperating teacher likes to stay late and plan very slowly. I wish she could plan faster.

ElizabethG: I begin my takeover on March 12

CarolynNe: We plan with the group on Wednesday

CarolynNe: and they drop stuff off through the week.

LiseU: My takeover starts Mar. 19

MaureenF: I think having a good rapport with the students might be the most critical factor for a successful takeover

ElizabethG: It seems that Carolyn got the better end of the deal

ElizabethG: I agree with Maureen

LiseU: I have been eyeing rapport, too.

CarolynNe: Yes, Maureen is right!

GregSi: I agree with Maureen

ColleenMB left the room.

CarolynNe: I love the team I work with

LiseU: Do you spend a lot of time with the lesson planning content areas other than Social Studies?

ElizabethG: My cooperating teacher offers feedback but this feedback would have been helpful before I presented the lesson.

CarolynNe: They help each other so much.

CarolynNe: feedback, that is what it's for...next time! ;O)

MaureenF: I have been teaching the language arts for about 3 weeks now. Lot's of planning, however, we follow an adopted text book.

CarolynNe: Yeah I used to not be animated enough!

ElizabethG: I make sure I show her the lesson at least two days before I present it and she makes sure I cover specific things but she always points out the areas I went bad.

LiseU: Planning time?

MaureenF: I've started math and I am using their homework to plan. For example, if they don't get it, I plan a review session.

CarolynNe: Yes! Or we talk about how to help them.

ElizabethG: I appreciate the feedback but I would like to hear at least one good thing for every bad thing. It makes sense right?

CarolynNe: I notice right away when they don' get it.

LiseU: Are you teaching your social studies yet, anyone?

CarolynNe: yes

ElizabethG: No

CarolynNe: I did this week.

LiseU: I start on Monday.

MaureenF: I taught soc studies when I subbed, but I gave it back when my teacher returned.

LindseySt: I love getting back feedback of any kind personally.

LiseU: I have the outline of a month.

ElizabethG: My first time will be during my takeover

LindseySt: Any little insight is always loved.

CarolynNe: Yeah I have a written outline.

ElizabethG: So have I

CarolynNe: I think I know what my focs lesson will be now too.

GregSi: I have an outline

CarolynNe: toward the end

MaureenF: I have found that language arts and social studies are similar -- lots of discussion and writing about it. Math is where all the fun is!

LiseU: I notice that I will have my hands full to teach what my teacher expect, w/out all the bells and whistles from 525. Though I can add if I want to - OK w/my teacher.

LiseU: I meant, for Social Studies.

CarolynNe: Me too.

MaureenF: The kids like the bells and whistles

LiseU: Yes - if you have time!!

LiseU: I have to see how the time flows, for starters.

GregSi: Math is fun until you try to teach fractions and the students do not know their multiplication tables.

CarolynNe: I just plan to follow what the team will plan together

CarolynNe: I can't rock the boat. They have been really nice and are following my social studies thing.

LindseySt: That is a good way to go, Carolyn

ElizabethG: We do not plan with other teachers. We can't

CarolynNe: My teacher comes to the articulation too.

CarolynNe: Who is we?

ElizabethG: My cooperating teacher and me.

GregSi: You can but the upper grade teachers do not plan together.

CarolynNe: Why can't you?

MaureenF: I thought that all grade-level teachers had to plan together.

LiseU: Arroyo has a unique situation

CarolynNe: Confused.

LiseU: only 1 4th, 1 5th, plus a split, which is often on a different schedule

ElizabethG: The other teacher teaches the combo class so she has her own timeline

LiseU: At my school, the grade plans together, but it's only 2 classes

CarolynNe: Ohhhh!

CarolynNe: Yeah, we have three.

MaureenF: Our poor teacher who has a 5-6 split has to meet with both the other 5th gr teacher and the other 6th gr teacher.

CarolynNe: I love working as a team. I don't feel so scared.

GregSi: The teachers could plan together but they are not trying.

BJB2: interesting topic about collaboration...

ElizabethG: I think it's hard for my teacher since half the class is barely making standards and planning with someone else can be difficult if the students are not at the same place.

BJB2: we were just discussing that in the previous session

CarolynNe: yes, that is true!

LiseU: My teacher has the bottom 1/2 of 4th grade, the other teacher the top half.

MaureenF: My class also has only about 1/2 making the standards. What is up with that? Are the standards too tough?

LiseU: My teacher pretty much modifies all day.

LiseU: We have 10 ELs.

LiseU: I have heard, yes they are.

LindseySt: My class also only has half the class meeting standards (if we are lucky), but we still manage to find time to collaborate.

LiseU: Is anyone teaching Science?

CarolynNe: Well we have many students that are meeting standards, but we have a low group that is not.

ElizabethG: In this situation ELs are not the reason

CarolynNe: yes I taught science when I got there.

LiseU: Thanks for your point of view, Elizabeth.

CarolynNe: Penguins

LindseySt: I'm teaching Science. I am in charge of the whole science unit actually

ElizabethG: My students go to someone for science

CarolynNe: That is nice!

GregSi: Elizabeth our 4 / 5 classes could plan together because we cover similar material. For example fractions.

LiseU: Good for you, Lindsey. I teach Soc.Studies, then Science after that.

MaureenF: I'm not teaching science, but I wouldn't mind.

CarolynNe: I am in charge of social studies, math, science, and writing.

LindseySt: We are quite backlogged on Science right now though. Our zoo reports took over this past week.

LiseU: Maureen, your math class sounds fun - I'd like to see it!

MaureenF: Lindsey, what grade are you?

LindseySt: 3rd grade

ElizabethG: I have to admit that student teaching in this classroom is a great experience because it is definitely preparing me

CarolynNe: It would be a nightmare to do this without student teaching first

DianneA wonders if today's discussion and last month's discussion means that this group would also appreciate being in contact between these live sessions, and if so do they know how to do it by joining a group and using the discussion thread part of the group process

MaureenF: I think we are getting a great experience through CLU. I completed some courses at CSUN. Not the same!!!

DianneA remembers Greg's preference for f-t-f work

LiseU: Dianne, yes, it's a good idea to stay in touch. No, I haven't set up a thread before.

MaureenF: I feel that I don't have any extra time for other meetings

CarolynNe: yeah me neither.

DianneA: not meetings Maureen but emails indicating other folks questions that might be answered at anyone's convenience

LiseU: That could be helpful.

MaureenF: Maybe in May!

CarolynNe: after the 11th you mean?

DianneA: OK, next month, I will show you how to do that ... time has run out here, for now

GregSi: I am busy but I would meet face to face or at a site where we could do a tele conference.

CarolynNe: Are you guys wearing PJ's to school tomorrow?

DianneA: and you have worked through some important current issues

LiseU: Bye bye. and good luck, Carolyn!

GregSi: No

BJB2: The next Teachers in Training will be on April 5

CarolynNe: You should

LiseU: Just Dr. Seuss stuff - crazy schedule.

ElizabethG: No my teacher is not in the spirit

CarolynNe: My teacher told me to.

ElizabethG: But I think it would be fun

LiseU: Esp. for lower grades.

GregSi: I do not wear PJ's

CarolynNe: I am wearing workout pants and a sweatshirt

MaureenF: Bye for now!

GregSi: I can do that

LiseU: bye

CarolynNe: Bye

GregSi: Bye

BJB2: thanks, Dianne