

Katie Williams, the intern for the class I'm taking, AED 3160 Art in Elementary School at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan, has been extremely beneficial to not only myself, but the other students in the class as well. As a teacher myself, who is adding elementary to my current teaching certificate, I love getting new ideas from fellow teachers. I'm currently an ELA high school teacher and I'm not always teaching 'art' in my class, but Katie has given ideas throughout the course where I could incorporate art within my classes. She's also given great classroom management tools, such as modeling. I do usually model my assignments, but I've never modeled the process. Katie showed us how you can model getting supplies, or cleaning up, which I think we as teachers always assume students know how to do effectively. She's also shown us how to model an assignment, without doing too much of it. If you do the entire project and model to the class, then students are trying to model your project, and not come up with their own. I really have appreciated the 'teacher's language she has used as well. We did an activity in class where we had to share an 'appreciation' of our table partner's art project, which I thought was a great idea. Too often kids focus on feedback that shares what a student did well, and not all students feel confident in their art, which could lead to unproductive criticism. But by teaching us the elements and principles of art (which I had not known prior) a student can focus on an element/principle when talking about what they 'appreciate' in another student's artwork. The articles and TED talks have been very beneficial as well. I've learned new ways to approach how I speak to students about their work and about not only how students learn today, but how we are teaching them. I know there is always talk about changing the way we see education in the states, and I think the resources we've been provided have been real eye openers for me. We've also been given resources on how to incorporate culturally relevant teaching into our classrooms, which I think is extremely important. The most effective activity has been the final activity which was to create a lesson plan for a social studies unit and to include both art elements (standards) and CRT (culturally relevant teaching examples), in addition to the eight habits of the mind. The lesson plan really made us think and be conscientious of what we were putting into the lesson and what the students would be getting out of it. It has been a pleasure working with Katie this spring/summer semester. I wish her the best of luck as she completes the requirements for her M.A. in Leadership and Cultural Management.

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