

Elementary Transition to Teach Program  
Indiana University  
**M550 Supervising Teacher's**  
ASSESSMENT of STUDENT TEACHER

Preservice Teacher's Name: Patti Walsh

Supervising Teacher's Name: Victoria Arther

University Field Advisor's Name: Tom Huston

School and Grade Level: St. Charles Middle School (Grades 7 – 8)

Please rank this preservice teacher's understanding of the following aspects of education based upon your observations and conversations with him/her. Below each category are a few ideas to take into consideration when making your assessment. Please use the following scale in making your assessment. 1 - Unsatisfactory for a Novice Teacher, 2 - Satisfactory for a Novice Teacher, 3 – Above Average for a Novice Teacher, and 4 – Outstanding for a Novice Teacher.

If you have the time, we would also appreciate if you would make a few comments related to each category. By "*understanding*," we mean that the preservice teacher not only knows this material intellectually, but has fully internalized it and has demonstrated these understandings when appropriate in his/her teaching.

**Understanding Curriculum**            1            2            ■            4

- Selects relevant content in light of children's abilities and biographies
- Creates curriculum that is meaningful to children
- Develops classroom-based curriculum units whenever appropriate
- Uses a diversity of curriculum materials and resources when teaching a unit of study
- Integrates a range of subject areas and academic abilities into the study of a given topic when appropriate
- Critically considers and assesses curriculum guidelines and standards that emerge from external agencies and stakeholders

Comments:

- Followed standards and content that was given to her for each lesson. Patti was able to take standards and concepts and put together a unit plan that was appropriate to the student's learning.
- At times Patti struggled with taking a concept and teaching to two different levels – regular and advanced students. She would teach the same concept in the same method to both classes but at times she would

have been able to push the advanced class to a higher level. That experience will come as she has more practice with different level of students.

- Patti had a good sense of the curriculum as she made appropriate assessments for students to cover the concepts.
- At times it felt as though she was not confident with her math skills as she taught the class. It is okay to not know it all, but in front of the students be confident in your skills. It is also okay to tell them that you will look into that problem at a later time, but make sure to come back to that problem to explain to students.

### **Understanding Instruction**

1      2      ■      4

- Prepares instructional plans in light of previous activities and students' interests/abilities
- Uses a variety of strategies when teaching a given unit of study
- Teaches in ways that are authentic and meaningful to students
- Understands the potential benefits and limitations of using recent technologies in the classroom
- Uses diverse types of assessment (beyond worksheets and paper and pencil tests) to understand what and how children learn
- Recognizes and responds appropriately when students have difficulty understanding content

#### Comments:

- Strengths: preparing for a lesson, recognizing when students are not understanding, flexible in her planning and instruction and is able to change if needed to benefit the students, using technology in the classroom (graphing calculator, powerpoint, etc), and looking at assessments to reteach or change her approach to a lesson.
- Weaknesses: pacing of a lesson (needs to be able to know how much time to spend on a specific concept, topic, or questions), reteaching a problem using a different approach (need to get creative and think like a student who is having a hard time grasping the concept), and knowing on a day to day basis how student's are performing (she can catch the students once they have taken an assessment but also needs to find a way to catch them on a daily basis – for example; could use exit cards).

### **Understanding Children's Learning**

1      2      ■      4

- Understands and can identify various ways in which children learn and make meaning
- Facilitates children's diverse intellectual (broadly conceived) talents
- Provides students with a diversity of activities and resources from which they can learn

- Adapts curriculum content and instruction in light of the diversity found among children, with special attention given to those individuals with unique academic challenges and talents
- Incorporates opportunities for students to become curious and intellectually engaged in learning

Comments:

- Patti seems to be aware of student learning and what the majority needs in order to succeed throughout a unit.
- She was able to change instruction or a lesson if students did not perform well on an assessment. When reteaching she would then try to find an activity to help the students understand the material better.
- Was very good at adapting content for lower level students.
- Could do better at challenging the upper level students and really make them think about concepts differently.

**Understanding Cultural Pluralism**

1      2      3      █

- Is culturally responsive to diverse ancestral heritages, genders, and other forms of difference found among students
- Understands the challenges of children who are members of historically marginalized groups of people
- Recognizes and sensitively responds to incidences of sexism, racism, classism, and other forms of stereotyping and exclusion
- Identifies curriculum that is potentially disrespectful to children's ancestral heritages, gender, class, physical and mental abilities, and/or sexual orientation

Comments:

- Patti is aware of diversity and recognizes this in the classroom. She treats all students in the same manner.

**Classroom Community Building**

1      2      3      █

- Constructs an inclusive learning environment
- Generates classroom rituals, myths, and ethos that helps build a sense of community among students
- Creates a community in which children's bodies, emotions, and intellect are safe and valued
- Resolves conflicts among children in ways that are mutually satisfying to all parties
- Responds to children's anti-social behavior/attitudes in ways that are effective and do not demean or humiliate students

Comments:

- Patti made students feel welcome and safe in the classroom.
- She was able to walk in and follow the classroom rules and procedures already set and hold students accountable in a positive way.
- Patti has a great student-teacher relationship with all students and students felt comfortable with going to her for help.
- If a student was not acting appropriately, Patti would redirect them without calling them out in front of the entire class.
- At times, students might have felt too comfortable, for their behavior would get a little out of control. That is one place I feel that she could improve on – she needs to find a way to bring the group back together quickly.

**Professional Growth**

1 2 3 ■

- Views oneself as a member of an occupational community created for the benefit of children's education
- Reflects regularly on the challenge of educating children in a complex, democratic society for the purpose of improving one's craft of teaching
- Works effectively with parents, colleagues, administrators, and support staff
- Critically examines externally driven reform efforts prior to implementing them in the classroom

Comments:

- Patti is a great team worker. We were able to really work together as a team during this time and I feel that will help her as she finds a teaching job and works with her colleagues for the benefit of the students.
- Patti seems very interested in learning about education and how each child learns. She is willing to try new methods if needed to help students succeed.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Patti did a great job in her 6 weeks here at St. Charles. I truly enjoyed working with her and felt that she connected well with the students. She will make a great teacher for she takes pride in her teaching and effort she puts in preparing for each lesson.