

Old Dominion University
Practicum Reflection Paper
HPE 369
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I was placed at Greenbrier Middle School with Mrs.Krantz's class around the end of October. I visited the class on Thursdays from 9:30am – 3:30pm. I was involved with all grade levels from 6thgrade to 8th grade. It was an okay experience. Mrs.Krantz's classes were mostly student centered where students go to pick the option they wanted to participate in. While Mrs.Krantz picked a spot and did other work while keeping an eye on the students in the gym. The kids were enthusiastic about getting to be with their friends and pick the options they wanted, for the most part they even enjoyed fitness day.

There really weren't any pedagogical practices done in her class. She basically just gave the students some options of things they could do and they were allowed to pick what they wanted. I think this is a great method on a Friday or the day before a long break like Christmas or spring break or even before or after midterms/ finals, to give the students a stress free period to just have some fun with their friends. Two challenges that I noticed was with 6th grade. 6th grade got maybe, 10-15 minutes of actual activity time. They would enter the gym being extremely loud and sit in their dismissal lines and the teachers would wait until they got quiet. After that they would send the students into the locker room one class at a time just to put their things away, not even to dress out. They would then sit back in their dismissal lines while the teacher waited for them to be quiet again. By the time all of this was done they had 10-15 minutes of activity time before they started the process all over again. I think that they could use their whistles to get the students attention so they get the ball rolling faster rather than standing there and waiting. Another challenge I noticed was that if a student talked back or really did anything that the teacher did not like, they were immediately sent to room 302. Which was the room where they sat and did paper work rather than be a part of PE class. I think a different way to approach this would be to make those disruptive students the center of attention. For example

if a student will not stop talking in class, give them the task of reading the PowerPoints or have them pass out papers, something to get them doing something. Another challenge I noticed was spacing. Somedays students were given upwards of 6 options to participate in. Balls were flying everywhere and the groups of students for some of the activities were much too big. I also noticed that students would pick the same activity day after day. A way to remedy this would be to limit the number of options and have multiple games going. Also, rotating students through all of the activities so everyone gets a chance to do everything.

Two strengths I acknowledged from Mrs. Krantz is that she most definitely worked well with her other teachers. She always seemed willing to help even if you could tell it was against her ideas. I think it's very important to work well with your co-workers. Being able to get along with someone makes the work place more enjoyable. She also had a good reputation with the students. She told them happy birthday when it was their birthday, asked about their after school activities and how their life is going. I also think that this is a good thing to do because it builds relationships with the students, which in turn, helps her understand her student's needs much better.

All in all, I think my experience here was an okay one. For 7th and 8th grade students were given options and they got to pick what they wanted to do. For 6th grade the activity was chosen for them and they were given minimal time to participate in the activity. I understand that having control of the class is very important for a successful lesson but, there are more effective ways to go about getting and keeping the students attention.