

Alanna
Observation 4
October 19, 2015

When I arrived today you were finishing up your example for the class. You were prepared with tools out and ready. I liked that you had a safety plan for giving out the carving tools. When students came in you greeted them by name and asked them about their weekend. You are always so good about making personal connections with your students.

You mentioned that when you and Tina were out for the VATA conference on Friday your students gave the sub a hard time. I liked how you brought this up with your students in a clam, mater of fact way. You did now dwell on it but you let them know that you were not happy about this and that they lost their playlist privilege.

I continue to be impressed with how you handle unexpected behaviors. You never let distracting behaviors rattle you. You remain calm and positive which is so much more productive than getting upset. I thought it was great that you creatively invented (was this intentional?) a job for C in order to get him to go and speak with Tina. This shows how respectful you are of your students by not wanting to embarrass anyone while managing the classroom.

I like how you started class by revisiting the carving techniques that they learned last Thursday. You asked great questions about what they remembered. Students offered many great observations, "it was fun", "it was hard", "you have to be safe". You did a great job filling in information and reminding them that their designs can't be too small and detailed because it will be difficult to carve.

You then gathered the group around you to show them what they should be working on today. You had a great example to show them your expectations. Everyone was quiet and listening closely to your explanation. You were clear and sequential with your directions. As I've noted before your tone of voice and demeanor with students is such a strength of yours.

The students were being so careful with their work. They diligently drew over their pencil drawing in order to make it dark enough to transfer onto their block. Students who were ready transferred their image and began carving today. Even though students were on different parts of the project it didn't feel chaotic at all. You did a nice job tailoring your instruction to the varying needs of the class.

This is a great unit that you have planned for the 6th graders. Printmaking is complex but so engaging for students. You are doing such a great job breaking down the process for them and making adjustments to your instruction as needed.