

Alanna- Observation 6
November 16, 2015
ADL Middle School- 7/8 Art

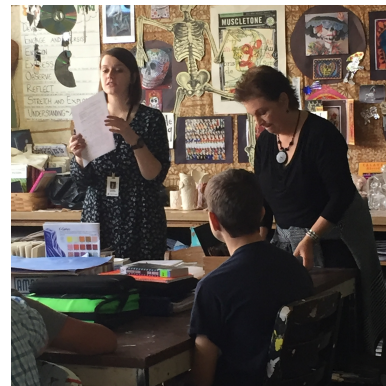


I loved getting to see all of the clay projects you did during your solo teaching. The tiles were very successful. I was impressed with how the tiles were so uniform in thickness and size. Their designs, attention to detail, and craftsmanship were impressive for 7th grade. It is evident that your instruction was thorough and clear just by looking at the work. The eight grade vessels were impressive as well. Many students made mugs, which was great. I think the probably liked the idea of making something that was so functional.

As Tina said, you have high expectations and have a way of teaching the complex skills of working with clay in a way that is accessible to middle school students. You mentioned that now you need to go through and grade the work. It will be interesting to look at the work through the lens of assessment.

Before the students arrived, you had everything you needed in order. You and Tina work so well together as if you have been team teaching for years! Of course, you are so intuitive that you can predict how to best help Tina and your students. The tables were ready with different materials spread out to accommodate the various projects that would be going on.

This is the last week of this class's time in art. This means that there will be a lot of different projects going on as students finish up their term. Tina gave an explanation of how to glaze their clay work and directions on several different options for students who were waiting for their work to come out of the kiln or have finished up the other projects. I love how Tina interacts with her students in such a compassionate way. I know you have picked up a lot of her techniques for working with middle school students. The students know how much you and Tina care for them and because of this they feel safe to explore their art. During the introduction a rubber band flew towards the front of the room. (Ha, ha, gotta love kids!) Tina's reaction was great. She just took the whole incident so lightly and gently laughed it off. Because of her rich relationship with her students, she didn't need to discipline anyone or appear upset. She just kept the class going and everyone moved on. With other teachers, this may have gotten the whole class riled up and off track. Because Tina has so



much respect for her students, they, in turn, have a huge amount of respect for her and would not want to disappoint her. Her way of making light of the situation only works because of all the hard work she has done to build those relationships and set up the expectations.

For the second class, you and Tina decided that you would do the introduction. You were clear in your directions for students to fill out their assessment. I like how the assessments are truly apart of you project. In some art rooms the assessment piece gets lost or forgotten but it is important to hold older students accountable and guide them in the reflection process. As a teacher, it is important for you to think about the purpose of the assessment and how you will use the information (data) you collect. In this case I think you will use the data to guide your students, offer them feedback, and adjust your teaching in the future.

Alanna, you are a natural teacher who is just getting better and better! Your projects are creative, thoughtful, and well planned and your kind way with students is remarkable. In addition, you are a great colleague and team player. You are going to be an amazing art teacher.

