

Alanna- Observation 2
Albert D Lawton Middle School

Today when I visited the eighth graders were learning about Henri Matisse. Students reviewed information that they had learned previously. I was impressed with how much information they already knew! The students watched a quick video about Matisse. Tina interjected with additional information to reinforce what the students were seeing on the video. This is a great technique to help students fully engage in a video presentation.

You were very attentive and intuitive in the classroom. It shows that you are becoming more and more integrated into the classroom. You took the initiative to take attendance while Tina set the stage for today's lesson. During the video you looked around to make sure students were focused and watching the screen. While Tina explained today's work you were getting things organized. You just knew what to do! This kind of foresight and intuition is so important and it is one of your strengths.

The students seemed really motivated by the materials for this project. Working on canvas that they stretched themselves is so exciting for middle school students. How incredible that they are given this experience. Offering high quality supplies will elevate their confidence and work. This is something to keep in mind when you have your own art program someday. Some schools have a limited budget but there are ways to get creative or involve the community in fundraising in order to be able to offer quality supplies to you students.

Even though this current project was something that Tina designed you were clearly well versed in the expectations and objectives. Students were conferencing with you about their ideas. It was clear that you were interested in hearing their ideas and willing to offer meaningful feedback. Your interactions with students are gentle and calm. Students feed off of your grounded presence, which in turn calms and focuses them.

When we talked it sounded like you will be taking over the six graders, which is great. I think you are ready to take ownership of some of the classes and curriculum. It sounds like you have had some time already to experiment with "owning" the class when Tina had to be out of the room. I think teaching lessons that you design or co-design will be a confidence building experience for you.

It was great talking with you and Tina at the end of class. It sounds like you have a plan for how the rest of your time will go. You are doing a wonderful job co-teaching and communicating in a professional manor with your colleague/mentor. Your reflection on your approach to classroom behavior and management shows your strength and engagement as a teacher. Making the "Learning Habits" rubric was a wonderful way to take what you had observed in the classroom and addressing it in a proactive way. You also have wonderful ideas for curriculum and I look forward to seeing how your lessons evolve from idea to reality. Your clay projects are a great way to incorporate a medium you already feel very comfortable in.

Keep up the great work!