Madison Stafford

Shilling-Stouffer

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Final Reflection

This class was difficult, but extremely eye opening. Having to re-teach myself how to solve simple math problems, while explaining why I got the answer was really difficult, but I grew more respect for the struggle my students will have to go through.

Math was and has never been the easiest subject for me as a student, and I feel as a teacher I will have compassion toward the students in my class that struggle with certain topics. I will always remind my students that it is okay to not understand something, but that giving up is not an option. I will also tell them that there will always be people that are better at something than they might be, but that we should not compare ourselves to them, because we all have our strengths and weaknesses. I want to instill this mindset in all of the students I teach, no matter what grade level.

I hope to find a job teaching first grade when I graduate. At this age, according to the SOL’s, students are continuing their work with number sense, estimation, measurement, statistics, patterns, and algebra. When it comes to helping them develop their number sense, I will use multiple counting games and activities to help them with knowing where to place numbers. Activities such as marking the number of days we are in school will help the students with counting up, but also help them with place value.

As a teacher I plan to come up with as many activities involving the outdoors and visuals as possible. I want to find ways to reach all of my students and their different learning styles. I do not ever want to be the teacher that hands her students worksheet after worksheet. That’s why the base ten blocks are extremely beneficial to use when talking about place value (SOL 1.5a) with students, because it allows them to see, move, and touch the objects they are dealing with. When talking about measurement and counting money (SOL 1.8) I feel it is extremely important to use visuals and fake money to help kids group and count. Using visuals and finding different ways to reach my students, is one of the biggest challenges that I am going to face as a teacher.

I want to create a safe environment for my students, so they can feel like they are open to express their ideas and thoughts. As a first-grade mathematics teacher I want my students to explain to me how they figured out that 8+6= 10, so I can help them figure out that it really does equal 14. I want my students to feel comfortable with being wrong, but to know that I will help them find the right answer. Math is extremely difficult for some people learn, but I want to build a strong foundation with my students, that they have the ability to succeed in math.