

Hello!

It's Zach Wiard and I just wanted to email you about my 7th grade teaching experience so far. First of all I can confidently say that the year-long pilot program experience has already helped me out immensely! Before school started we had an open house and I was able to use something similar that I had made for the beginning of the year last year from my experience. I was fairly comfortable with the start of a new school year mainly because of my experience I gained last year seeing how a beginning of a school year goes. I was definitely still anxious but I felt prepared. On the first day I was able to use the same basic syllabus that my teacher and I created last year. Of course I made some changes to make it work but this made one less thing I needed to do.

As far as classroom management goes the experience I got through the pilot program definitely improved my management. On the first day students began to test me right away to see what they would be able to do and what would be acceptable. I was able to communicate proper behavior right away on the first day. This is allowing me to be consistent everyday but the students know my expectations from day one. I feel like without my experiences last year that I would not have been able to see the importance of relaying my expectations from day one as well as identifying unacceptable behavior.

Students know that I'm new and they immediately want to see what my limits are. The year-long experience definitely let me see how a class can get out of hand without consistent expectations and consequences.

Planning is going ok. This is the part of the job that I think is the hardest! I am able to use my skills that I learned last year, but this time I don't have a cooperating teacher guiding me. So I have to rely on my experiences from last year and be confident in my skills learned! I ask other teachers for advice but it's certainly different once you're in the official teacher role. I think this is something that if people have the opportunity to really practice doing this AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!! Sure planning for a day or two is good, but if I could give a tip to some people I would try to sit down with a book and other resources and try to plan a two or three week unit. Then go over how you planned it and what you did with your cooperating teacher. I truly think planning is one of the hardest things for a new teacher and it's certainly nerve-racking! Also, I'm co-teaching 2 classes with a special-ed. teacher and I love it! I think that it's great and it seems that from the way people are talking more co-teaching seems to be in the future for teachers! I think it's great and the students see both of us as teachers, not just one as the teacher and the other a special-ed. teacher! I feel like I got good experience at OU and the year-long program with co-teaching with a special-ed. teacher!

Overall, I just wanted say thank you and give you an update on how the pilot program has helped me in my first 2 weeks of teaching. I fee I like the pilot program has helped me immensely for this teaching job! I have talked to other new teachers this year who only did the quarter-long or semester-long student-teaching and everyone seems to be interested and a bit jealous of a year-long program. I hope to kind of keep you updated on the first year of teaching and my ups and downs that come with it!

Thanks again and I hope you're starting off your new semesters on a good foot! Best of luck

and thank you!

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