

Have you ever had a student teacher before? Or are you like me and this is your first time? This whole summer, I have been planning and preparing for my student teacher who will be with me from October-December. This means, she will have experiences with two grade level programs (5th & 4th), a beginning band performance/preparation (5th Grade Band), a month of early rehearsals with a middle school Jazz Band, and of course, the day-to-day operations of a typical teacher day.

In my preparations, I have been reaching out to those who are MUCH smarter than I am and have had these prior experiences. Usually, I would start out the conversation with “What are some things that are good to consider when having a student teacher?” The feedback I have received has been incredible! Below, I will attach a document of some of those shared ideas with me, but here are five (5) major takeaways I have so far gathered:

1.) “The Non-negotiable List” (every person has their own)

Some things to consider include communication, time at school, and dress code.

- Example: I must know by 6:30 a.m. if you are going to be gone for the day and as soon as possible if you are going to be late.
- Report times; think of time spent at school like a bank. The more you put in, the more you can withdraw in small amounts. (University commitments don't count)
- Dress for the job you want keeping in mind admin may have a different paradigm and they are the ones making the decisions. It is always better to be too conservative.
- Phone (emergency Wi-fi/educational usage); otherwise put it away
- Be open and honest. Don't be afraid to have frank conversations.

2.) Scribe what/how you teach. Your student teacher can record you for some of your language on how and what verbage you use in your classroom.

3.) Keep daily reflections, 3 things you felt good about and 1 you will do better next time.

- Video record a lot
- Journal

4.) Create a space for your student teacher to “inhabit” while they are there. It may not be “their” classroom space, but give them a space to make it their own. Things to consider:

- Have a desk & chair for them (away from yours; you both are going to want your own space and not just chit-chat all the time.)
 - Include pens, pencils, a calendar book, journal, inspirational quotes, a place to store personal items, sticky notes, a welcome “basket”, anything welcoming, etc.

5.) Find a way that works for both of you to share/create lesson plans:

- Consider how/what they want to use
- Ideas for sharing: Google Drive, Planbook
- Think/discuss with teachers how and what works best for them (process out, at a glance, etc.)
- Double dip (K-1, 2-3, 4-5 lessons)

Some great ideas! I can't wait for my first experience with a student teacher and the many things I will learn from this process. Here is the link for you to create your own copy and think about other things we have not considered.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-OiMgKt-O9wTtwUJfhUjU7QeFxSPPxxu_vSxXIxQbQ/copy