

Analysis of Student Teacher by Cooperating Teacher (Foster)

Professional Development

- Like all new teachers presenting material to students for the first time, Sarah will continue to refine her materials and develop a better sense of how long activities will take the longer she spends in the classroom. She taught two sophomore English classes back to back as part of her internship, and I was impressed by her ability to reflect on and revise her lessons even in the space between blocks. Continuing to develop her bank of formative activities and assessments will allow Sarah to more flexibly respond when lessons take more or less time than anticipated.
- My courseload this year included only honors and AP classes; while these higher-level classes have their own demands, they don't include the same level of learning differences and behavioral challenges that other classes do. As a result, Sarah will likely benefit from additional practice with behavior management and differentiation.

Strengths

- Sarah is a positive presence in the classroom, and she is skilled at building relationships with all sorts of different students. I was consistently impressed by her ability to respond to high school chaos with a smile and calm redirection; she shows a level of self-regulation and empathy that is rare for new teachers, and students were drawn to her as a result. In reflections about the three weeks when Sarah was teaching independently, many students praised her kindness and planning skills, and I know they will be sad when she graduates!
- Sarah has a special talent for writing instruction, and she brought her creative writing experience to bear during a sophomore argument unit. She designed thoughtful and creative activities to help students narrow in on a topic, examine it through different lenses, and identify counter-arguments, and she provided thorough feedback throughout the unit to help students grow. As a result, students produced some exceptionally creative and interesting pieces.
- Sarah is a deeply reflective practitioner, and she seeks out and utilizes feedback whenever possible. During her independent teaching, she problem-solved when students were chatty or needed additional time for work, and she elicited student feedback to shift her planning where appropriate. I appreciated her attention to improving lessons for the future; there were several times where she added comments to my Planning Calendar about how long activities took so that I could use her experience in future years.
- Sarah is naturally collaborative and took advantage of opportunities to embed herself in the school community. She attended meetings of the teacher equity group that I'm a part of, participated in school spirit days, and went to see the school play that many of our students performed in. It was clear that she sees the job of teaching as one that does not end at the classroom door. Her future students will be lucky to have her!