

Reflection (1)

(8/20/2012 BEFORE SCHOOL STARTED) School will begin in a few days. Am I ready? But I know it is a question that I cannot answer.

Still, I feel myself lucky, mostly because of the experience with Region 3. I know, at least, if anything goes wrong, I can go to Region 3 for some psychological support. For the past three months, Region became my home. When I go here, I feel like going home.

You may say that it is their job and it is not uncommon. But I still want to say that they are special.

On the school side, we were just assigned the classroom. The desks needed to be arranged. The teacher's desk was ok, but the cables! All these computer cables! What a mess! But, yes, we just had to arrange them as neatly as we could. When it was done, actually, we felt a little better. I would think it had just proved that when you are not sure of anything, doing the most smallest thing will help, at least psychologically.

There were a lot of trainings to go through. I am a slow learner, and depending on which training it was, I might benefit a lot or I might benefit nothing at all! And, the emails were rolling in! I already had so much to take care of and here came all the emails most of which had hardly anything to do with me!

Education obviously needs to start with teachers.

I was anxious to learn such technologies as whiteboard, etc., but we did not have time.

Reflection (2)

(11/28/2013 DURING THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS) One of the greatest challenges was to be able to use the Esembler fluently. There was no user's manual. Even if there were, I doubt I would refer to it anyhow. But, partly because of trial and error on my own, and partly because the calling for help when desperate, I was able to manage.

I already lost 4 calculators! Despite the fact that I made an organizer for them. And the seating chart became a problem. I did not start with the seating charts. And when I felt the necessity to do it, the students revolted. I sensed that I was limping along with an unfavorable start.

I realized that I was lucky to be teaching also the senior classes, instead of only teaching the freshmen classes. The seniors usually behave as a rule. But, I was still cautious, because I knew that it does not matter how good the students are, the teacher needs to be good enough to be respected and trusted. I tried. But to think back on it, I thought I was good enough, only because I was new.

The more I think back on those days, the less I realize I was ready then!

I am sure of one thing: if not for the help from the colleagues, I would not have survived.

The students were actually ok, except that most of them spoke too much!

One more thing: the advisory class. We were almost not trained for this class. However, I personally think advisory class is important – it is a free time, most ideal for the teacher to understand the students and vice versa.

Reflection (3)

(3/15/2013 DURING SPRING BREAK) It really caught me by surprise that the second semester was actually tougher than the first!

I had been doing this since the beginning of the school year: got up at 3; did exercise; prepared to go to school; and went to school.

There were pros and cons of this schedule. One of the pros was that I had a fixed exercise schedule, which helped to stabilize my daily routine. One of the cons was that I did not have enough sleep – far too little.

Somewhere before the break, I made up my mind not to think of quitting any longer. It did not help anyhow. But to be honest, I almost quit one day. But I didn't. I was so lucky. It was the same day that the two principals (both East and West) came to my classroom to do a walkthrough.

It helps that a person's mind is set.

At least, I still kept on trying. I knew that I was not doing well. I almost knew that I was actually terribly. But I was still trying, and trying to improve. At least, that was something.

Reflection (4)

(5/26/2013 BEFORE END OF SCHOOL YEAR) I was surprised to learn that I was elected the Employee of the Week!

I knew how my colleagues had helped me. Without them, there was no way that I could have survived this year. On the other hand, I realized that I had been not very social, which was an obstacle to my becoming a good teacher.

I realized that I should do the following:

- 1) Utilize the advisory time to teach Chinese – with emphasis on using the iPad or iPhone, so that the students can experience a completely different language **through utilizing technology**.
- 2) Utilize a seating chart from the very beginning.
- 3) Make clear the class rules.
- 4) Make good use of lesson plans.
- 5) Make good use of Substitute Binder.
- 6) Help to make the meetings more successful.
- 7) Teach colleagues taijiquan.
- 8) Be social whenever suitable.
- 9) Whenever possible, understand the students personally.
- 10) Communicate with the parents.
- 11) Educate holistically.
- 12) Keep on learning and developing.