

Artifact Title: Collaborate and Communicate!
Date Experienced: 2012-2013 School Year

Artifact Description:

There are three artifacts for standard 1.6. First, a letter of recommendation provided by a previous administrator discussing my use of questioning students to elicits critical thinking and discussion. Second, the Clinton high school band handbook provides information about the program, expectations, fundraising opportunities, yearly performance schedule, among other written communication to ensure the success of my students. Third, a print off of the website I am using to post assignments and discussions called “Edmodo.” All three allow me to effectively communicate with students using a variety of techniques.

Wisconsin Administrator Standard Alignment:

This artifact best aligns with standard 1.6 **Communication:** *The teacher uses knowledge of effective verbal, nonverbal, and media communication techniques to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in the classroom.*

These experiences best align with standard 1.6 because they demonstrate my ability to communicate to all students with a variety of different avenues which include verbal (questioning), nonverbal (band handbook), and media communication (Edmodo learning website). All of these forms of communication are ways that I convey ideas and information to my students. They provide me with an opportunity to reinforce the concepts I am teaching along with helping students stay involved in the learning process through discussions and research.

These artifacts demonstrate my competency in this standard because they are great examples of three ways I communicate with my students. The letter of recommendation, which highlights questioning in the classroom, mentioned a “Socratic” style of teaching. My administrator explained to me that in a very natural way, I am able to question students to stimulate discussion, probe for learning understanding, promote risk-taking, and problem solving. She and I agreed that I use questioning as a way to elicit answers from students. With the second artifact, the Clinton high school band handbook shows how I am able to communicate my expectations to all students involved in band up front. It is a tool for students to refer to throughout the year and allows them to get a better understanding of the program to enhance their learning opportunities. The third artifact, the Edmodo website Print out, I show my ability to reinforce the concepts I am teaching in the classroom and to challenge the students to learn more. Often times, I post recordings of music we are currently studying in class, and ask the students to listen, critique, and discuss ways that we can perform the music. All artifacts are examples of my competency in this standard.

What I learned about teaching/learning from this experience:

After reflecting on this standard, I realize there are a number of ways to effectively communicate to students. As I grow as an educator I will continue to use these different outlets to convey what my expectations are and to foster interest and learning.

What I learned about myself as a prospective administrator as a result of this experience/artifact:

As a prospective administrator, I have reaffirmed in my mind how important communication is to the intellectual growth of students. Through a number of outlets, teachers have an opportunity to encourage critical thinking and spark interest in students to want to learn more. As an administrator, I would encourage teachers to use a variety of communication techniques to meet the needs of their students. I will have a unique opportunity to lead staff into discovering new ways to communicate with all students. Edmodo is a website that was found by my current administrator, who asked the school board to create a policy for use of this unique communication outlet. It allows communication between both students and parents with the teacher. As an administrator, I would search for ways to enhance the communication between students, staff, and parents to ensure the success of all students.