The Substitute Teacher Project

By: Charity Wiemann
Heritage Middle School
Charity.wiemann@gcisd.net
The premise...

Students are given the time and autonomy to learn about something they’re passionate about or interested in within your content. They will then assume the role of the teacher and create a 15-20 minute lesson to teach their class about their topic of choice.
This is a project that I usually do towards the very end of the year. It is primarily after STAAR. I use it as their semester exam grade. So no test! Yay!
Planning ahead…

- Backwards map so that you know when to start.
- Try to give the students at least 4-8 “planning periods”
- Always send an email out to parents before you give the assignment to the kids.
Stage One, Day One...

- Introduce the project.
- Hand out the packet
- Assemble into groups 2-4 students.
- Start brainstorming topics
- They can use the group work planning page on the back of the packet to get started.
Stage Two, Day Two...

- Students propose topics.
- Students schedule their teaching day.
- Start researching their topic....gather info.
- They MUST know what they’re talking about to have the class truly engaged with them and to be able to field questions about it.
- They will find out if their topic is deep enough to have a 15-20 minute lesson lesson over. Topic changes are inevitable.
Stage Three, Days Three to Five(ish)...

- Plan out what they want the class to learn.
- Assembling/making resources for the class. Making slideshows, downloading readings, choosing websites they want us to see, videos they would like us to watch....etc.
- We must DO something in the lesson besides sit.
- I provide them with access to WICOR strategies, Kagan strategies, popular online game formats, etc. I make myself available as an educational consultant.
Stage Four, The Continuation of Stage Three...

- Work out the details of their plan.
- Work on the agenda and flow of the lesson.
- Google Classroom post (mandatory)
- Making copies (copy requests submitted to me days in advance, I make them)
- Google items are all shared with me or make link-shareable and I test links in Google Classroom.
- They are asked to conduct any experiments at home first, just to make sure they work.
Talk with the whole class about behavior expectations during lessons.

We want respectful, cooperative, inquisitive students.

Negative behaviors will result in a loss of points for them.

The only time I will break character as a student during a lesson is to correct behavior from other students.

Discuss sensitivity when a blooper occurs...because they will.
Their Day to Teach...

- On the day that they teach, they hand me their official lesson plan. I attach a rubric.
- I sit in the audience as a student. Perform zero duties as a teacher while it is their time.
- I grade the lesson as they teach it. Grade the plan document (majority of the grade) afterwards.
- Allow about 5 min of transition time between lessons.
Pro Tips:

- Keep very close tabs on progress.
- Remind them that this is a lesson, not a presentation...repeatedly.
- Remind them that this is not just arts and crafts time or snack time. Crafty or foody activities need to add value and deepen learning.
- I do allow them to bring prizes for top scorers when they do a Kahoot! or something. They love that.
Pro Tips:

❑ Expect that some kids will absolutely tank the delivery of the lesson....and some you will find are born natural teachers.

❑ Stay on them about filling out the lesson plan document. They’ll forget that is a thing.

❑ I have started keeping a list of topics that have been taught. This helps with inspiration when students are struggling with finding a topic.
More Pro Tips...

- **Make them** do a practice run. They need to make sure they are filling up 15-20 minutes. I take off points for anything that runs short of 15 minutes.
- They have to make a list of materials needed and show me. I provide what I can from the classroom stuff. They get the rest on their own.
- Keep checklists of what things the groups have tackled and what things they are missing.
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Notes:
- 1: Tornadoes
- 2: Yellowstone National Park
- 3: Advantages of AI

Topics Calendar
Previously Taught Lesson Ideas Folder
Sample Google Classroom Post

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

***HUMAN REFLEXES***
Masan and Vikita

**GOALS:**
Learn about terms associated with human reflexes.
***Learn about the different types of reflexes.
***Understand the purpose of a reflex.

1. Have all materials ready. (1st link)
2. Look through instruction slides. (2nd link)
3. Begin researching your reflex.
4. Share info. with teammates.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/167x4As67x7x5a76vvxay692Yx39YvFXnZBNxw/edit?usp=sharing

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Sample Detailed Lesson Plan

Lesson Planning

**Teacher:** Ms. Williams

**Class:** 9th Grade Pre-AP Science

**Goal:**
- Understand the roles and effects of Earth’s rotation.
- Learn about the moon’s effect on ocean tides.

**Objectives:**
Students will:
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between Earth’s rotation and moon’s effect on ocean tides.

**Materials:**
- Chart paper
- Data table
- Data sheet
- Student workbook
- Handouts
- Internet access

**Lesson Plan:**

**Day 1:**
- **Explore Activity:**
  - Students choose a harbor to collect data on for a one-month time period.
  - Students use data to calculate a graph of the moon’s movement.

**Day 2:**
- **Elaborate:**
  - Use prior knowledge and past few days lessons on resources.
  - Identify the type of tides that would be present.

**Day 3:**
- **Extend:**
  - Write a CER over the graphing activity from day 1.

**Day 4:**
- **Summarize:**
  - Review the data collected on the moon’s effect on ocean tides.

**Assessment:**
- Data table
- Data sheet
- Student workbook
- Handouts
CHECK-IN THINGS:

1. How are things going?
2. Have you started your lesson plan?
3. Have you started your Google Classroom post?
4. Do you need lab materials from me?
5. Do you need paper copies from me?
6. Try your experiment yet?
7. Have all things ready by Friday.
8. Share items w/me only when done.
9. Attach all things you want to show on board to your classroom post.
10. How is teamwork going?
The Goods...

Set to view only. Make copies for you in your drive.

Hollar at me with any questions
Charity.wiemann@gcisd.net