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Final Exam

Many teachers in the elementary setting find it difficult to give time to each subject. When observing at schools it is very common to see subjects such as science and social studies pushed to the side. Teachers fail to see their importance and therefore spend the school day focusing on reading, writing, and math. Those are the subjects tested, which means they are most important, right? Wrong! All subjects are important, and through the course of the semester I have learned to value each of them, as well as the secret on how to incorporate them into an already busy schedule.

The key to meeting all standards is integration. We have spent much of the semester creating a thematic unit based on a social studies standard. To begin the unit we were first instructed to pick a grade level and standard. The standard presents a theme that will be used. Once we had a standard, we had to determine an objective, what did we want the students to gain from this unit, and how do you assess it. We had to have a pre and post assessment that related to our objective. As a teacher it is important to plan instruction around assessment, as assessment drives the instruction.

Once a teacher has determined a standard, objective, and assessment he/she can then begin to plan how they will incorporate it into all other subjects. This can be done with a thematic web. This web will serve as a visual aid to the teacher and help to ensure that all subjects are met. For example in the center of the web is the theme. The teacher

would then draw lines out of theme writing subjects, such as math, writing, reading, science, etc. The teacher then brainstorms ideas for each of those subjects. These ideas are then turned into activities and related to academic standards.

Technology also becomes an important aspect of a unit. With our ever-changing world, it is more important than ever to incorporate technology into the classroom. It can be as simple as watching an educational video or as complex as using a “Smart Board.” It is also important to have students interacting with computers, either to type information or to complete a web quest. The use of technology enriches a child’s education, helping to prepare them for their future.

With teaching comes the responsibility of management. Teachers must determine how much time to give to each subject to make sure they are all covered throughout the day, and on a larger scale the year. It is a teacher’s responsibility to cover all of the state standards, which can often seem over-whelming. However, management becomes a bit easier with the use of integration.

As a future teacher I plan to use integration in my classroom in order to meet all academic standards. Thus ensuring that subjects such as science and social studies are taught in my classroom. I feel that I will then be setting an example for my colleagues; showing them that it can be done and should be done. I will encourage them to observe in my classroom, as well as offer suggestions when asked on how they can do the same. I am hopeful that through the efforts in my classroom, I can open the eyes of others; allowing them to see the importance of all subjects in the school day.