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Reflection Paper #2

Internship Reflection

This year, I have been given wonderful opportunities to learn about leadership in an elementary building. Looking back my knowledge has grown tremendously since the beginning of this year. This year at Clinton Valley Elementary I worked with my mentor, Niyoka Wright, to expand my knowledge on educational leadership. Through the experiences I have been a part of, I was able to grow as an educational leader. As my first year comes to a close and my second one begins, I will continue to dive into the educational leadership process and begin taking on more roles as a leader.

Activities

Throughout the second half of this year, I was given more opportunities to learn and grow as an educational leader. First, I participated in several professional developments that dive deep into the curriculum. I was able to see the importance of a good curriculum and how to implement that curriculum throughout the school. I was able to observe the way a leader in the school checks up on the staff to make sure they are using and following the curriculum.

Working with my mentor, I was able to look at school data. We talked about how the data represents the teaching and curriculum going on throughout the school. We were able to see what areas needed improvement and which grades showed the most growth. I was able to then watch my mentor present the data information to the entire staff at the school. She then led a conversation with the teachers about where we can improve and areas that they already showed great growth. This year, I dived deep into data, more than I ever have before.

Some other activities that I participated in this year were working after school events, such as the music concert and the fifth-grade graduation ceremony. I was able to observe my mentor give the fifth graders leaving the school a pep talk and encourage them and their parents to continue the growth into middle school. I was one of a few teachers in the building to attend NGSX training, which is a new way to teach science. It will be implemented into our curriculum in the future years to come. I participated in several meetings with my mentor and staff. I was even nominated to be an ambassador for DreamBox, which is a program we are implementing for next year. I will then use my knowledge to teach and lead other teachers on the program.

My Learning Experiences

Throughout the year, I have learned more than I even thought was possible. I was able to change my mindset from teacher to educational leader. I learned more about creating a building culture with the staff to make it a comfortable space to voice opinions and talk with one another. I learned how important it is for the leader of the building to establish a relationship with the community and families of students that attend the school. I was able to watch my mentor interact with all the families throughout our school/

Although I believe there is still so much for me to learn, this year has been a great beginning to the journey. There are areas that I really want to learn more about and actually begin to take over some leadership parts myself.

I learned about the importance of data for a principal. The data shows that all teachers are on the right track with curriculum and that their teaching is effective. It was interesting to look at data schoolwide instead of just in my classroom.

Reflection

Reflecting back on this year, I was able to make a ton of growth in the educational leadership area, but I know that there is so much more to learn. I feel as though I have only dipped my toe into the ocean of things to know as an educational leader. I think that this summer I am going to have more opportunities to really take on the role as a leader. Next year, I hope to be included in more administration meetings and lead staff meetings.

Overall, my mentor and I have a great relationship, and I know that I can talk to her about all things leadership. I am just hoping she continues to start including me more in some of her administration things and lets me take the rope on some things more than just observing.