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Reflection Paper #3

Internship Reflection

The beginning of my second year as an educational leadership mentee has been eye-opening, challenging, and overwhelmingly rewarding. I have not only grown as an educator but as a leader as well. I have a better understanding of what it takes to lead a building, all the responsibilities that come with being a principal and even had a chance to learn more about the finances of my school.

Activities

This year, I was able to assist my mentor in several different aspects of an educational leader. I participated in behavior conversations with parents and my mentor. This allowed me to get some experience when it comes to handling tough situations within the school. I was able to see how she handles the conversation and how she works to create strategies that are best for the success of the student. Not only was I able to be a part of several important meetings, but I was assisting in the resolutions and using the mindset and problem solving as if I was the principal at the school.

This year, I became the leader of Student Council within my building. My mentor even gave me the task to create, and problem solve ideas to help with the behavior and social issues within the school. We started talking about creating a peer-to-peer program and start it next year.

Another huge change that I was able to be a part of with my mentor was changing our curriculum building wide. This year, the goal was to improve and shift our ELA program to see growth in students’ reading data throughout the school. I was able to be a part of this huge change. I voiced my opinions and even helped create resources that made this shift. I was a school-wide initiative, so it was also eye-opening to see how teachers responded to this change. I was able to see that many teachers were on board, but some were not. This allowed me to learn from my mentor about how to handle these types of situations. She would, confidently, explain to me how she talked to the teachers to get them on board.

My Learning Experiences

Over the past year and a half, I have learned so much more about education. Not only do I understand the teacher side of education, but I am learning more of the leadership and principal side of education. This year, I learned so much about building culture within the school especially when you are trying to make a big change. Many teachers are not always on board, but as the leader, it is my job to get them on board. I have learned about what it takes to create a school budget and how the money is divided between the schools and throughout the district.

This year, especially, I learned how important it is to make sure that all teachers are meeting expectations and using the curriculum as intended. I have tools on how to have conversations with teachers who disagree or are having a tough time. I have learned resources to use when it comes to hard conversations with staff. I have also been able to really understand the observation process. This year, I have really gotten the chance to be apart of leading and seeing what it is like to be a leader. Last year, I learned and this year I feel as though I was able to do.

Reflection

Reflecting back on this year, I see what a challenge it can be as an administrator. I have hugged my mentor as she shed tears to me in our conversations about how tough the job really is and can be. I realize that this job can be very lonely and draining. I also realize that I will impact so many lives in an amazing way. I have learned that I will be able to help establish a culture where all teachers are excited about coming to work and want to be there. I have a new appreciation for the administration of my school and of all schools. I have also realized that although it may not be all sunshine and roses, this is what I want to do for the rest of my life. I plan to make a positive impact on a school as a principal on day. I am excited to finish out the year and see what else I learn along the way.