**Substitute Teacher Lesson Plans**

**Angela Valente-Muscolino, Room 113**

**Special Education, 8th Grade**

Our Daily Schedule:

-Pick up students in the cafeteria

-Students have breakfast in the classroom

-We begin our morning with an ELA Block

-Followed by math groups

(On Mondays ONLY we have music from 10-1030am. The music teacher will come to our room to pick up the students.)

-Lunch for students is 11am – 1130, in our classroom

-Recess for students is 1130-12pm weather permitting they go to the playground. Otherwise, aides will put on a movie in the classroom.

\*\*\*TEACHER LUNCH IS 11-12

-Upon returning from recess children wash their hands and have a drink of water to cool off and refocus.

-Science

-Our Daily Prep is from 1255-125. Teacher escorts students to prep as follows:

M- Art/Music

T-Gym

W-Art/Music

Th-Gym

F-Art/Music

Teacher picks up students at end of prep.

-Social Studies

-Snack

-Students must be in the cafeteria for dismissal by 240pm.

**LESSONS:**

-ELA Block: Journeys Teacher Manual is on my desk and is open to the lesson CHART that we are currently utilizing. The chart indicates Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4 and Day 5. Each lesson is 5 days to correspond with Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. (EXAMPLE: if you are subbing on a Wednesday, please follow the plan for “Day 3”). The plans are very clear and specific, just follow along.

-Math Groups: If my TA, Mr. Alex, is in the room with you, he knows what to do for his group. If he is not with you, I suggest you do not try to do groupings, but instead do a full class lesson. Again, Math Teacher’s Manual is on my desk and is always open to our current lesson. A sticky note on the manual will always be updated with the page where we left off. Use the manual to help students complete the next page.

-After recess have students listen to you read aloud to them. There is a pink bucket of books next to my desk. Choose any book and read aloud to students.

-After prep, please choose an activity from the following list:

1. Tell a communal story

Ask students to generate a story that begins with “once upon a time” and incorporates a list of concepts or words you select from class material. You can also use story cubes (or make your own!) to inspire them with images. They’ll enjoy the fun that comes with the randomness of rolling dice.

With younger students, do this activity together aloud; with older students, you may choose to use this as a writing activity.

2. Create a card

Give students time to make a card for someone special in their lives. This incorporates drawing and coloring (which are both excellent activities for developing fine motor skills) and writing.

Special paper (card stock, colored paper, etc) can go a long way in motivating students to do their best work on an activity like this. If special paper is not available, teach the kids an interesting way to fold cards. This can be a treasured opportunity to create something meaningful and fun, especially for younger classes.

3. Imagine and tell (or write) a descriptive story about a picture

Bring in a photograph or art print, grab one from a book in the classroom, or project one from the internet. Ask your students to describe the picture in as much detail as possible by using specific sensory words and adjectives. Write those words on the board, and encourage kids to hypothesize what is going on in the photo. Help kids use their imaginations to tell a story. (Older kids can write theirs.) Share the different observations.

4. Play ‘Would You Rather’

Findings by Stanford researchers show games help develop patience, engagement, and discipline — skills that correlate with success even more highly than IQ.

“Would You Rather” is a fun, silly game that has the added bonus of helping you get to know your students a little better. You simply ask, “Would you rather…” questions, such as, “Would you rather be turned into a giant bunny rabbit or a miniature giraffe?” or “Would you rather sneeze 75 times every single day or always have to wear flip-flops everywhere you go?”

Here’s a list of 200 questions to get you started.

5. Play ‘Doggy Doggy, Where’s Your Bone’

In this game, you’ll need a pencil and a chair. One student plays the role of the doggy and sits in the chair with their back to the group and eyes covered (with their hands or a blindfold). Another student quietly steals the “bone” (pencil).

Everyone sings,

Doggy, doggy, where’s your bone?

Somebody stole it from your home.

The child in the chair has three chances to guess who took it. If the student in the chair guesses wrong, the student who took the bone will get a turn as the dog.

6. Play a screen-based game as a class

Consider engaging students in a screen-based game. If your students have access to computers, check out offerings from PBS or Fun Brain. If you’re projecting from one computer in front of the class, find a quiz video or other group online game. If kids have access to individual computers, look at Kahoot! to choose from preselected learning games.

As always, remember that most schools have a policy on computers, so be sure to ask about what might be appropriate for the classroom you’re subbing in.

7. Host a group work showdown

Divide older elementary students into small groups. Each group gets the same set of review questions to work on. (This material can review the day’s work or a work from a larger chapter/unit. Often these questions can be found in the text.) The group that finishes first with the most correct answers wins.

8. Read aloud

Never underestimate the power of story time. There are many benefits to reading aloud to children. No matter what their age, most elementary students transform once they are captivated by a book. Whether you have them remain seated at their desks or invite them to sit in a circle around you, choose a book or two from the teacher’s collection (or ask if anyone has a favorite they can share) and let them get lost in a good story.

9. Strike a pose

Play a song and tell students to freeze and strike a pose when the music stops. Use a variety of tempos and musical styles to mix up the fun.

10. Do a little mirroring

Mirroring is a way to focus children and develop concentration skills. Students stand facing each other and pretend they’re looking in the mirror. Tell them to move slowly. The goal is to copy each other’s movements precisely. Allow one child to lead first, and then the other. Then, challenge them to mirror each other without one specified leader.

11. Play a game of Snowman or Spaceman

If you’re familiar with the classic word-finding game of Hangman, you’ll know how to play these more culturally sensitive versions of the game. You’ll get the same learning benefit of the original and also learn to draw something far more appropriate for the elementary school classroom.