

Describe Artifact

As a part of block one for education I will be attending an elementary school to meet my requirements of pre-student teacher. Most of the students do not understand who I am or why I am in their classroom, and so I wrote a letter to the parents to explain my purpose. The letter will help the children and parents learn more about me, and my reasons for being there. In my letter I included information about myself that I feel lets the parents get to know me on a more personal level. The information included covered topics like where I grew up, what I like to do, and my family life. I also included in the letter my college experience, as I feel it is important for a parent to know that I have been provided with the tools needed to function in a teaching capacity. Another part included in the letter is a description of what I would be doing in the classroom. I stated that I would be doing six lessons in their child's classroom, which ensures that the parents are aware of how I will not only be observing and helping the teacher, but educating their children on lessons that I have constructed.

Alignment Reflection

Wisconsin Teacher Standard Alignment

This artifact best aligns with standard six. Standard six states that teachers can communicate well with peers and students. I believe the letter to the parents coincides well with standard six because I am making a step to keep the lines of communication open between the parents and myself. As a student teacher I am communicating with the parents through a letter since formal meetings are a little harder to achieve. A letter to parents uses verbal communication to explain to the parents about me and what I would be doing in their child's classroom. I feel that a letter to the parents in the beginning of the year is one of the best ways that a teacher can open up communications with the family. It will help them feel closer to you because they know a little more about you and assures them that a positive learning environment that will be created.

UW-Platteville School of Education Knowledge, Skill, Disposition Statement Alignment

KS3.a. is best aligned with my artifact because it states: you should communicate clearly and accurately. This aligns with my artifact on communication because I feel that my written language is correct and free from grammatical errors, sentence structure, and misspelled words. When writing the letter to parents I considered my choice of vocabulary, wanting it to be clear for the parents, but also wanting it to thoughtfully address the necessary points. Through my efforts, one can tell that I effectively communicated to the parents information about myself, as well as plans for teaching their children.

Another KSD that aligns well with my artifact is KSD4.c: communicates with families. In the beginning of the year I wanted the whole family to feel involved in their child's life while at school, because I believe that the child's interaction with their family is very important to their development. When I provided information about the lessons I will be teaching their children, I believe I was able to give the parents a little insight into the educational process that I am using. As a teacher, it is important to me that I have open communication with my students' families so that the families are informed of

current and up coming events, and that the parents are able to approach me with any questions or comments about their child's performance in the classroom or my teaching strategies.

Personal Reflection

What I have learned about teaching/learning from this artifact.

From this experience I learned how to better communicate with others. A letter to the parents is a teaching strategy that teachers use to communicate verbally with the parents about what is going on in the classroom. It is a good way to get information to the family without having to meet with them. I have also learned that by giving the parents some information about me and explaining my purpose in the classroom, it will help to create a positive learning environment for the children. Through my efforts of trying to reach the families, they will feel more informed and involved and encourage the children while they are at home.

What I learned about myself as a prospective educator as a result of this artifact.

The letter to the parents has taught me that as a teacher I need to do everything I can to make the families involved. When the family is involved it not only helps the teacher to do their job, but helps create a supportive learning environment for the child. I have learned that I can write a well constructed, grammatically correct letter to parents if I put a lot of effort into it. At first I was worried about writing a letter to parents, because I wanted my letter to make me sound professional. From this experience I have learned that I am a professional now and I can do anything that I set my mind to. What I gained through this will affect my future school, because I feel that every year I am there, it will be my job to make sure that I keep the parents involved. The letter to the parents will help them learn more about me, learn more about what their child will be doing in my classroom, and learn how they can become more involved. I think that making sure the parents feel comfortable in their child's school will make it easier for them to get involved in after school events. The school community is always in need of volunteer help and a child that sees their parents volunteering is more likely to get involved. I believe that the school community will be positively affected by what I learned about myself and because of this experience it will be easier for me to approach other sources for help. For example, when planning a field trip I will be better able to approach these facilities and ensure that a trip to their place would be beneficial to my class.