

Michael Casey
Putting it together
Reflection

I had the opportunity to observe a 9th grade ELA class and a 12th grade physical education class. I picked these grade levels because they are what I would consider major transition grades. 9th grader students are transition to high school from middle school, while 12th grade students are working towards graduating.

The 9th grade students I observed were working on creating speeches about “freedom of speech.” The students were actively engaged using a variety of resources and technology. Additionally, students could move about the classroom to sit where they want. This coincides with the energetic characteristics of high school students. Students demonstrated great communication skills. The lesson seemed appropriate and the learning activities appeared to be meaningful.

The 12th grade physical education class was completing a unit on volleyball. Student engagement was fairly compliant throughout the skills portion of the lesson. However, when it came time to scrimmage, student engagement soared. This might be due to the competitive nature of young adolescents and their desire to hold their own in front of their peers. Students worked together cooperatively. You could tell the difference between students who were athletes and those who were not based on their performance and coordination.

Overall, I found the programming and policies more than acceptable for high school students. I enjoyed seeing the difference in maturity between middle school and high school. The structure of high school provides students with a variety of opportunities to take courses that they are interested in. As a future leader it is important to stay grounded in student engagement.

