

Administrator Questions

Information-Processing Model/inquiry teaching

E.C.

Hello, my name is Erin Correa and I am the principal at **Discovery Lane Elementary** School. Before we begin the interview process I would like to tell you a little bit about myself and the philosophy of this school. It took me a while to get where I am now. 6 years ago I graduated from Mount Saint Mary College with a Bachelor of Arts. One attribute that I am extremely proud of is completing my major in Information Technology. I'm currently attending Grad school at Mount Saint Mary College. I've had many different experiences in schools while teaching. My classrooms ranged from self-contained to general education. I would like to say I am a teacher who appreciates diversity. After a few years of teaching, I decided to go back to school and apply for a job as a principal. I have worked at Discovery Lane for 5 wonderful years now. The philosophy of this school follows a Montessori approach. This is one of the many reasons why I decided to apply to this school. Discovery Lane Elementary school is located in Lower Manhattan and the students that attend this school are underprivileged children. The issues that arise in this school really inspired me to make this school a safer environment for the students and teachers. This attribute gave me another reason why I was drawn to this school. Discovery Lane Elementary school has a lot of heart and the students are willing to learn the content. As mentioned before, this school harps on the aspect of a Montessori approach which means this is an inquiry-based school. We discovered that the students learn better through this method and achieve mastery level with the content. Discovery Lane also likes to hit on the higher spectrum of Bloom's Taxonomy. This school is seeking for devoted and caring teachers in many different aspects. The students should be put first in this school. I can't wait to meet all the potential candidates. Now let's begin our interview!

Warm Up Questions:

1. I know that you have been in Dr. Smirnova's class, where she used the principles of the Flipped classroom. Provide an example of flipped teaching/ learning in your social studies 5th-grade classroom?
2. What do you have to offer for this school district? Why do you think we should hire you but not somebody else for the position of a social studies teacher in our school district (or my school)

Inquiry Section:

1. When you hear the word inquiry what ONE **Word** comes to mind? Explain why.
2. What digital media can be used when designing and teaching an inquiry lesson on life science? Please share if you had any experience of using technology in teaching inquiry lessons.
3. You are teaching an inquiry lesson on Early Explorers for fourth grade. The students are assigned a WebQuest that you are designing for them. What would be a problem for them to solve and the essential question in this Webquest?
4. What assessment methods will you use to keep track of student learning during the inquiry process?
5. What do you think your strength with teaching inquiry is? What do you think your weakness with teaching inquiry is?
6. You are teaching an inquiry lesson on _____ (give the topic of the lesson that each group presented at Bishop Dunn). Give an example of a goal and an objective of this specific inquiry lesson.
- 7.

Behavioral Model/Direct Instruction

M. K.

Life Story-

Hello, my name is Melissa Kochovos, and I am the principal here at Direct Success Elementary. I have been the principal here for 4 years. Before we begin the interview process I would like to share a little about my career as an educator. Before I knew I wanted to become an educator I spent a lot of time jumping around from career to career. It wasn't until I began work as a T.A in a special education preschool that I realized I wanted to teach young children. I got my Associates in Early Childhood Education at Rockland Community College, then transferred to Mount Saint Mary College to earn my B.A in history with dual certification in childhood and special education, then earned my extension in early childhood ed. I worked my way through graduate school as a lead teacher in a special education preschool, getting my degree in severe and multiple disabilities from Columbia. I spent the early days of my career working with severely disabled children at a specialty elementary school.

It wasn't until about 10 years later that I heard about Direct Success. With their heavy influence on inclusion and high demand for experienced special education teachers, I knew this was the place for me. I have taught every grade level from first to sixth here, and I fell in love with this school's philosophy of teaching. The direct, behavioral approach works perfectly for this population. 15 years later, when Dr. Green retired and I was asked to take his place as principal I was thrilled to take the position. And here we are!

As I said before, Direct Success focuses on direct instruction, as well as a heavy emphasis on inclusion. Now, without further adieu, let's begin the interview!

Questions:

Warm Up's:

- 1- First, please introduce yourself and name one reason why you wanted to become a teacher.
- 2- When I say the term Direct Instruction, or Behavioral Approach to Teaching, what dance comes to mind and why?

Individual Questions:

- 1- Can you name a few differences (at least 3) between Direct Instruction and one of the other strategies of teaching (cooperative learning model or inquiry model)?
- 2- I am conducting an unannounced observation! If I walk into your classroom 20 minutes into your lesson about the Civil War what might I see?
- 3- Every grade level here at Direct Success has a Social Studies Unit on local history. How would a lesson in a first-grade classroom differ from a lesson in a sixth-grade classroom? Provide specific examples
- 4- Inclusion is an integral part of the curriculum at Direct Success. What are some modifications and/or accommodations you could make for diverse students in your classroom?
- 5- Can you list 3 different ways you can **integrate** technology during a direct instruction lesson on **World War I**?

Bonus Question!

- 6- Imagine the Teaching/learning process as a building/house. How would you place the following words in the place that builds the strongest house? Explain why you choose these placements?

Below is a picture of a house.

Here are the terms: Assessment, Teaching, Standards/Curriculum, Learning.



←---- Roof _____

←---- Walls _____

←---- Foundation _____

Social Interactive Model/Cooperative Learning

M. M

Team Spirit Elementary School

Hello, my name is Mallory Menneci and I am the principal of Team Spirit Elementary. I graduated from MSMC with a Bachelor's in History and a certification in Childhood/Special Education and continued at the school for my Master's in Literacy education. I began working at Scotchtown Elementary school in the Goshen school district. After a few years, I decided I wanted a more administrative role in order to instill my strong cooperative learning beliefs into an entire school to help promote students social development while learning. I run Team Spirit Elementary through a Cooperative learning lens. I feel it is important for students to work together to feed off each other's knowledge to expand their learning. I enjoy watching students rise to the challenge of

their roles in group assignments and to see how they present their ideas at the end of activities and lessons. I would love to hear about all of your thoughts and ideas about Cooperative learning and education as a whole so let's get started with the interview!

Warm-Up Questions

1. What book do you like to come back to when you have a free moment?
2. How were your experiences teaching cooperative lessons in Dr. Smirnova's class?

Cooperative Interview Questions

1. What are the ways in which you can include **5 Elements of Cooperative learning** in a lesson on the topic of *Discovering the Native American Tribes*?
2. How would you manage a classroom during a cooperative lesson to ensure that there is valuable learning going on to avoid chaos in the classroom?
3. What technology would you incorporate into a cooperative lesson to enhance student learning and meet the CC standards on the use of digital media?
4. **Scenario:** You're teaching a lesson in a 2nd-grade class on the Civic Rights. What activity would you use in the class for a cooperative learning lesson? (Keep in mind the goals and aspects of a cooperative lesson Ex: 5 elements, presentation aspect...)
5. **Scenario:** You are teaching a cooperative learning lesson and the class is split into groups. How would you differentiate the lesson in order to accommodate ELL students, students with behavioral disabilities, EML students, struggling learners, etc.
6. Bonus: What type of lessons do you feel most comfortable teaching? What type of lessons do you feel are most effective in teaching Social Studies?

Differentiated Instruction Powerful Teaching Elements

Emily Meehan

Value Elementary School

Hello, my name is Emily Meehan and I am the principal of Value Elementary School. Before beginning the interview process, I wanted to give you all some background information on myself and this school. After wanting to be a teacher for as long as I could remember, I graduated from Mount Saint Mary College with my Bachelors degree in English and a dual certification in childhood education and special education. After completing my undergraduate program, I got my first teaching job at Sanfordville Elementary School in Warwick, NY. I taught 2nd grade there for 3 years and then 4th grade for 7. During my first year teaching I decided to continue my education at Mount Saint Mary College and I obtained my Master's Degree in literacy education for birth through 6th grade. After working in Warwick for 10 years, I decided I wanted to become a principal and moved to New York City to enroll in the doctorate program at Columbia University for educational leadership. While in NYC, I worked in a co-teaching

classroom in a low-income school as a special education teacher. It was a great experience and that is when I decided to open up my own school. While pursuing my doctorate degree, I spent time researching how I can make lessons powerful for students in a way that helps each individual child grow. While conducting my research, I decided that students deserve to attend a school where all of their needs are met in a positive, enriching learning environment. After receiving my doctorate, I finally opened up Value Elementary School. At this school, my hope is that all of the students, staff members, parents, and visitor feel comfortable and respected. I want each student, regardless of any disabilities, economic status, or anything else, to grow from every lesson that is taught and I want the lessons to be powerful for the students. I am looking to hire a teacher who also holds this viewpoint and will inspire and love her students as much as I do. Now, let's begin the interview!

Warm up Questions:

1. What color comes to mind when you hear the phrase differentiated instruction?

5 Elements of Powerful Teaching and Differentiated Instruction

1. If you were designing a unit on Geography, what tasks would you include in it to scaffold the different levels of Bloom's Taxonomy and to reflect the 5 elements of powerful teaching?
2. If you provided a pre-assessment to your class before teaching a unit plan on the history of NYC and found out that some students were able to answer most of the questions correctly while some could not answer any, how would you plan your lessons so each student was deepening his or her understanding of the topic?
3. Give an example of how you will use technology in the classroom to make a lesson more powerful for students. What technology did you use in the classroom during your fieldwork or student teaching?
4. Describe a social studies lesson that you have planned that included each of the 5 elements of powerful teaching and explain how it benefited the students.
5. How would you address the different learning capacities of the students in your classroom?

Bonus Question:

1. What would you be if not a teacher?