

Standards:

My unit covers the four primary areas of elementary education, with a particular focus on Language Arts and Social Studies.

PA Common Core Language Arts:

- CC 1.3, 1.4. 1.5

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies:

- study of the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic
- study of the past and its legacy

PA Common Core Mathematics:

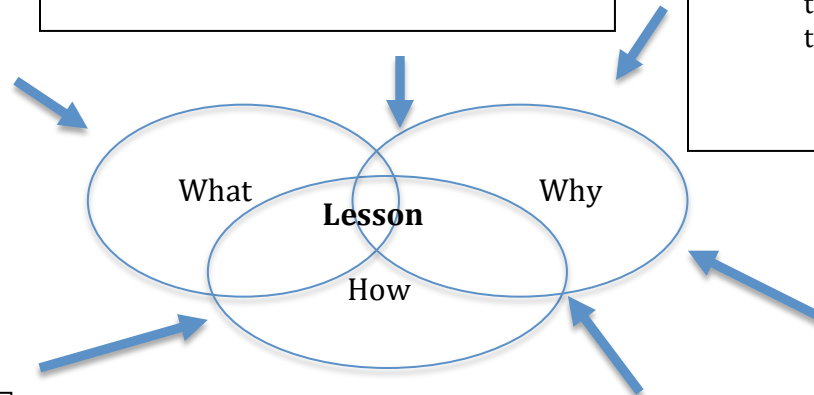
- CCRS.3.OA.8

Curriculum Materials:

- Quick Write books
- Doc Cam?
- Computer/Projector
- Graph paper?
- SCIENCE STUFF????
- Supplemental Texts

Knowledge of Students and Context:

- This is the first year these students have not been subjected to a scripted curriculum. Perhaps as a result, they seem used to looking for answers instead of thinking it out.
- Despite the overt expectations of revisions and checking over, most students in 211 embrace a “one and done” attitude towards work.
- Students seem very knowledgeable and interested by pop culture, both in the present and in the past two decades. Am hoping that success stories of famous people will inspire them.
- Many students have big dreams, but can they connect what they’re doing right now to making those dreams come true?



Teaching Methods:

- Use literature and historical texts to provide examples of perseverance
- Model setting, tracking, and thinking of intermediary steps to reach goals
- Explicitly state and review expectations for speaking and listening
- Read alouds with quick-writes (students or I choose when to write?)
- Popsicle sticks to encourage even participation
- Supplemental behavior management system - TBD!

Educational Philosophy and Beliefs

- For students to learn at (or close to) maximum capacity, they must be motivated to do so.
- It is nearly impossible for students to feel motivated if they perpetually feel overwhelmed.
- Students should be involved in the conversation about their own academic progress.
- Assessment/feedback should be personal and fast.
- All students have dreams and ambitions, though they may be latent due to previous inattention from adults/peers/self.
- Differentiation is crucial to meet all students where they are.
- Students learn best when they consider themselves to be active members of the classroom community.

Theories of Teaching and Learning:

Carol S. Dweck

- All students' intellectual ability can grow and when they move from a fixed to growth perspective, they do better
- Students' opinions of their own intelligence affects their academic performance

James Hiebert

- Greater student engagement promotes learning and facilitates student-based discourse.
- In classrooms with robust discourse, students do the “heavy lifting”.

John Van de Walle

- As often as possible, lessons should follow the Before-During-After format and be problem-based.

