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Ms. Reichmuth

Language Arts: Core 7

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Opening the Door to Adventure

Joining a new school, or even a new classroom, means a colorful door open to a world of possibilities. By becoming a member of Ms. Reichmuth’s seventh grade Core class, those dreams are much closer than you may anticipate. First, the content of each PBL, or Project-Based Learning Unit, helps students learn about concepts, while grasping information regarding prejudices and modern topics. Second, Ms. Reichmuth’s flexibility in classes helps reduce your stress noticeably. Finally, by the end of the year, you will have developed a new mentality—one crafted to learn with efficiency. Together, Ms. Reichmuth’s seventh grade Core class is an avenue of growth; specifically concerning content, flexibility, and mentality.

Everyone has been a part of that one class where the assignments are quite stereotypical; write an essay about your favorite food, animal, or artist. However, Ms. Reichmuth puts a whole new spin on what may seem “tedious” or “a time-waster.” For example, we started off the year with a project labeled “We Are the World: An Inconvenient Truth,” where we had the opportunity to research an endangered species, or a phenomena affecting climate change. Personally, it was quite interesting, as I chose to delve into the topic of nuclear weapons—how they are created, how they affect the environment, current relations, nuclear winter—there were a multitude of paths to go down (Robock and Toon). Further, the topics were extremely engaging and educational to research. Engaging, because we received the chance to partake in presentations, being able to receive knowledge regarding a wide variety of topics. Best of all, we were able to learn about new ways to keep ourselves progressing throughout the year. As Possibilities for Learning finds, “[Variety] enables highly able students to explore methods of learning to develop self-awareness of the methods and conditions under which they excel or struggle.” Another PBL we completed this year, titled “Social Justice: Be the Change!” covered a total of 53 Language Arts and Social Science Common Core Standards, all state-encouraged. At times, it may be tough to meet expectations surrounding projects; when that is the case, know that you have a say in class-wide decisions.

Uniquely, Ms. Reichmuth is always flexible when it comes to assignments; as long as hard work is being done. Often, she would request a “democratic discussion” from the class, asking when specific assignments should be due, along with multiple warrants from each case explaining why (Reichmuth). Meanwhile, all of the hard work put in is rewarded with well-earned extra credit; meaning more incentive to work harder. Aside from the grade-based benefits though, students in Ms. Reichmuth’s class always end up with a plethora of knowledge to work off of in future years. Already, her seventh grade class is known as “high-school bootcamp,” where students get to learn about countries plagued with social conflict, or even prejudices piled against people with a certain disability or of a certain race. Regardless, it is important to take this flexibility maturely, as your mentality plays a key role in the path to success.

Mentality, as defined by the Cambridge Dictionary, is “a person’s particular way of thinking about things.” In the context of Ms. Reichmuth’s learning format, it is especially important to limit procrastination, and increase efficiency; you can’t write an entire essay on the last day (well you probably can, but it won’t work out well for your grade). Generally, the learning mindset consists of four key areas: formulating goals, practicing deliberately, seeking feedback, and processing lessons (“Learning Mindset”). Without the four, it would be practically impossible to achieve any level of growth or success efficiently, let alone effectively. In addition, positive interaction with classmates will become a new norm. Personally, our class of 2023 has gotten even closer over this past year, with positive bonding over texts when no one understands the directions… you’ll understand later. Aside from those points, Ms. Reichmuth always brings a new kind of energy to the classroom. Somehow, just seeing her enthusiastic expression every day, makes the class much more enjoyable and exciting; much more preferable over the monotone instructions given by a few teachers. All-in-all, mentality plays a key role in one’s progress, not only in a learning environment, but in daily affairs as well.

Material, pliability, and a positive mindset are merely three of the areas bound to encourage growth in Ms. Reichmuth’s seventh grade Core class. First, all of her material is well-planned out, modern, and engaging—there will never be a dull day. Second, Ms. Reichmuth is consistently flexible with assignments, and will never fail to account for your opinion. Lastly, it is important to develop a strong learning mindset in order to flourish under her instruction. As you open the door, you find yourself in an environment where everything is fitted to your liking; an environment where you will grow successful and well-accomplished… a world allowed by your efforts in childhood.

Work Cited

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