Current Summer School Assignment

12 responses



2018-2019 School Assignment

12 responses



Did you teach district summer school last year?

12 responses



If you answered "no" to having taught summer school last year, please share with us why you chose to teach this year.

I heard that it is fun, and I really wanted the professional development.

Just thought it'd be fun to do! Science curriculum sounded fun to teach.

I chose to teacher summer school for the extra income, I am struggling to financially afford housing in this area. I needed to extra income in order to supplement and continue to pay rent through the summer.

I really enjoyed last years' summer school and came back for a new experience.

I wasn't teaching in the district last summer.

i taught last year

I taught summer school for the last 3 years because I enjoy the time working with the kids and I enjoy being able to support students from various schools and continue to develop myself professionally.

I wanted to teach summer school for additional income from the summer. I also knew that there would be PD and felt that may help me grow as a teacher. I was going to be available during the dates this year, it sounded interesting, and was a good opportunity for supplemental income

I wanted to see how we could integrate science with ELD. I also wanted to use this time to develop my skills as a teacher.

I am a brand new teacher and I wanted to gain new experiences, meet new people, and keep my skills up.

For the money and staff working

Did you benefit from the two extra days of training prior to summer school's start? What did you find most helpful? What are some improvements you would suggest for next year?

Yes! I found the modeling most helpful. It was also helpful getting time to plan and then receiving feedback and support from everyone. One improvement might be letting us choose the project question, or giving us different ideas.

Seeing the modeling of actual strategies being used was very helpful in implementing them in our own classrooms.

I found the two extra days of training very helpful. It was very stressful planning and printing so much, but it was excellent to get a ton of work done before the summer school program began. I also really love how much was planned for us. It is a really quick turnaround from the school year, so I truly appreciate having a lot planned for us. It also helps uniformity throughout the program and provides consistent in methods used between classrooms.

I really enjoyed the two extra days of training as it set expectations of how summer school should be taught and what the district was looking for.

Yes, it was absolutely crucial, in terms of outlining both the scheduling and the curriculum we were going to use.

Yes. I liked being able to see a day and lessons taught in realtime, as it helped me visualize and execute what the students should be exposed to. I think that in order to make it more effective, I honestly think that the content should just be parsed down, refined and focused, because as it is, it felt very all-overthe-place when it came to content and focus.

Yes, it was helpful to plan out the first unit and with all the prep that comes with this program, it was helpful to have time to prep and get ready.

Most valuable: Observing the demo lessons and explicitly being told what was expected from us as teachers. Likewise, being given planning time to have the entire first week done (was awesome!) Improvements: I felt that they were geared towards K-3, it would be nice to split for upper grades because it is very different. Additionally, having GrokSpot and Raz Kids for the amount of time was fairly long. I think having just 1 day of full day training, and a half day for planning would have been sufficient.

I found it most helpful to have time to plan and to see examples of the strategies in action. Next year I would suggest not having the curriculum resources present or at least making their time shorter. We needed more planning time and had already figured out a lot of the curriculum resources on the first day during our planning time and then had it shown to us the next day

The two extra days helped me understand the curriculum and the structure of summer school.

Yes! The training was very helpful as it gave just enough overview of how the different tools that we were going to use worked. The training also laid out specific expectations which was very helpful.

Yes, watching the demo of what the day/ protocols are supposed to look like in the classroom. For next year, I don't think that

Grokspot and science a-z trainings would need to be as long as they were this year, as well as the library training. Something that would be helpful is having a small guided reading training prior to the beginning of summer school.

Regarding the afternoon PD sessions, what did you find most valuable? Least valuable?

I found the writing and centers ideas helpful. I truthfully can't say that anything was not valuable.

Least valuable was PD on how to use library resources. How to run small groups and writing were most helpful.

I really loved the guided reading PD, as well as the PD Samantha A did on the writing "thinking maps".

Learning the different ways of teaching writing and vocabulary.

Most valuable: Samantha's explanation of the writing protocols and how to use them across various content strands

I found that time valuable when it came to being able to collaborate with my team.

Most valuable: Working with each other and having time to go over data and discuss strategies. Least valuable: Grokspot was not helpful or usable for the younger grades

Most valuable: When Samantha helped extend the writing protocols for all content areas and writing types. Least valuable: Grokspot was not the best tool.

I found it most valuable when we talked about guided reading in our grade levels and when Samantha asked us for questions about the protocols and then presented to us

I really enjoyed the guided reading and writing PD sessions.

What I found the most valuable were the focused PD sessions

(i.e. writing and reading groups) as well as, the time we were

given to plan with our team. The least valuable was grokspot.org.

Most valuable was having time to analyze student work with grade level partner and getting training on specific things we asked for support in (writing and guided reading). What was least valuable was the library presentation.

What teaching tool was most valuable to you and your students this summer? Why/How?

Both the writing and the vocabulary tool. It was really clear and my students did much better because of it.

The vocabulary protocol was very fun for the kids and valuable because students were able to retain the language and vocabulary that they taught.

I loved using the vocabulary and writing protocol. I thought they were very useful because they were color-coded and the students really learned how to write in a structured way!

Students really improved this summer in vocabulary due to the method of teaching vocabulary.

Signal word protocol-- embedded vocabulary for students, kept it refreshed in their brains as they used the hand signals. Evidence for it usefulness-- kids using the words, words showing up

I believe that reviewing the vocabulary to the extent that we did really gave the students the ability to access the readings.

The vocabulary protocol and and the vocabulary chart.

Writing Protocol and Vocabulary Protocol - During my first year of teaching, I have not received any PD regarding writing. This was very beneficial to understand a research-based way to support student writing and vocabulary.

I found the writing protocol to be really helpful because it gave students a structure to write a basic paragraph and was easy to scaffold/extend. The skill is transferable to all types of writing and we were able to see growth within the 4 weeks The word wall and the diagrams really helped my students. They always referred back to it.

Science A-Z was the most helpful tool as this was the primary curriculum we used and the program has a lot of extra features that are open for educators to use such as the games, activities, and experiments. These features were easy to use and required very little prep time.

What was most valuable to my students and I this summer was teaching them the writing protocol because many of them were not able to produce writing in the beginning of the program, and by the end they were proud of their writing.

Looking into next school year, what is something from your summer training that you will definitely use in your classroom?

Both the vocabulary and writing procedures.

Vocabulary and writing protocol will be something I use in my classroom.

I will absolutely be using the vocabulary and writing protocols in my own classroom. I am esthetic to implement them!

The charts to teach writing, vocabulary and comprehension.

Signal word protocol

intense focus on the vocabulary worked really well, especially when coupled with hand signals or sign language

The writing and vocabulary protocols.

Vocabulary Protocol - I would like to integrate it into the core subjects (ELA, Math) by using terms that they will see on state testing and within our curriculum.

I will use the writing protocol and create a word wall with motions like we did for our vocabulary

I will be definitely be integrating a vocabulary wall as well as the writing protocol.

I am defiantly going to use the writing protocol we used during this summer school program.

Writing protocol, literacy rotations, word wall, vocabulary protocol.

Logistically, what do you think went well with the running of the summer program? What would you suggest as an area to improve for next year?

I think the curriculum was amazing! It was so engaging and it was fun to teach. I can't think of an area to improve on besides the project question. It would be nicer to have more of a choice.

Loved the curriculum and students using language and vocabulary. Maybe next year our science projects can be better connected to the content that was taught during the 3 weeks prior.

I thought this program was wonderful! I especially loved Living Classroom and the writing protocol. Teaching science was perfect! I would not include the science project next year, it seemed very different from everything else we were doing. I felt the kids would have most benefitted from another full week of the vocabulary and writing protocol!

Everything ran well i would suggest extra yard duty to make sure students are not running out of the pick up area.

The only thing that was rough was the first week of school, but I think that would happen no matter what with starting a new program.

i think that overall, it was run very well, but little things like yard duty, bus duty, and lack of real focus when it came to living classroom were a little difficult to manage at times.

I think this was the best program we have had for summer school. Next year, I think the only area of improvement would be around the project and the project questions. I think the teachers should be able to choose the project questions and how they are going to present. I think the expectations for the project was not made clear in the beginning and it was too little too late. The questions were not testable with the design process.

Having the Science A-Z curriculum was awesome! It was incredibly easy to prep and prepare, lessons were enjoyable, activities were accessible. Likewise, having Jessica and Cindy pick up the needed materials made everything so much easier. Next year, I would suggest doing a different project or not doing one at all. Our endangered species project did not relate to Living Things or Adaptations. If a culminating project is what is wanted, it should be more related to what the kids learned so they can use their vocabulary and learning.

It went well to have the curriculum very structured and it was also nice to use high-interest science content. It was challenging to have the projects not planned out before we started them (to help us guide the project as we worked on it each week) and we weren't really sure what would be happening during the last week until right before.

I believe that there should be more aids especially if there are a lot of students in the classroom.

All of those in charge of the summer school program were very well organized and helped all of us teachers in every way they could. We had most of everything we needed (i.e. materials, behavioral support, curriculum questions, pd, etc.) even before we started the program and their support never wavered. I also loved having science as a vehicle to promote literacy. Students really utilized vocabulary and seemed confident in their content knowledge. This growth showed in the performance of their assessments. One thing that needs improvement for next year would be the end of program project. The project felt disconnected from what we had covered during the program. We did not have any say on the type of project our students would create, we had very little knowledge of the expectations, and the scientific questions were untestable. Perhaps getting the project information and expectations to the teachers earlier in the program, as well as, teachers having say in the final product would help.

What could improve next year is the science project at the end of the program, would work better if grade level teachers chose their topics because many were unrelated to what was studied in science a-z curriculum and they are not able to use their vocabulary or content knowledge they learned in their presentation.