Description of Placement

- FACTS was founded as a response to over a century of racism and discrimination faced by the local Chinatown neighborhood.
- FACTS offers an inclusive, folk-art and community based education dedicated to cherishing the diverse traditions, languages and identities of their students.
- Their Middle School Newcomer program provides full-time sheltered English support for newcomer ELL students (from 6 countries this year), in addition to instruction in core academic subjects.

Learning Objectives

- Develop the confidence and learn pedagogical strategies to teach English in a way that also valorizes the diverse identities and cultures of the students.
- Think critically and creatively about the challenges of this work in the context of the school, school district, home situation, immigration status and other structures/systems.

Responsibilities

- Support the lead teacher with grading, leading small group discussions, answering student questions and providing extra help in Math, Social Studies, Chinese and English Language Arts classes.
- Plan and teach small group math lessons.
- Utilize multilingual skills to translate for students.

Personal Growth

- Acquired the confidence to tutor and teach small group lessons.
- Learned effective communication strategies to overcome the language barrier.
- Developed my own teacher voice and teaching style.
- Gained patience with students and myself.

Unanticipated Lessons Learned

- Lesson plans never prepare you for actual teaching, they provide a framework for communicating the knowledge, but you must read the room and adapt that plan accordingly to meet the needs of students.
- The necessity for constant reflection, continuous assessment and creative thinking to address the needs of students with varying levels of English comprehension.
- Learned to have faith in the students and in myself.
- Standards must be responsive to individual needs, goals, and experiences. Each student learns in their own way and progresses at their own pace.

Moving Forward

- Hope to pursue teaching English as a second language, continue advocating for social equity and justice and the breaking down of harmful racial, ethnic & cultural stereotypes.

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