

Interview Assessment #2

Name of Professional: McKenna Bliss

Profession: 4th grade Teacher

Company: Allen Elementary

Date of Interview: 10/05/2021

Assessment:

I conducted my second interview with Mrs. Bliss, who is a 4th grade teacher at Allen Elementary. It was such a great opportunity to get to meet with Mrs. Bliss because we discovered we have a lot in common. For starters, I have always thought about teaching in Colorado after I graduate college. During the interview, I learned that Mrs. Bliss taught in Colorado for two years before moving to Frisco to teach at Allen Elementary for the last two years. I got to ask her questions about what the education system was like in another state, and if she preferred Texas over Colorado. Mrs. Bliss explained to me that Colorado gives a lower salary to their teachers and since the financial aspect of teaching is a concern of mine, it would not be ideal for me to teach there. Although I had read that Texas pays their teachers the best, it was helpful to hear from someone who has experienced both states' salaries and listen to their insight. After hearing Mrs. Bliss talk about the difference in teaching in both states, I am now leaning towards staying in Texas to teach, however, I will research more about the topic so that I can be sure.

Mrs. Bliss explained to me that she believes the best quality a teacher can have is to be a good listener. I loved her answer to this question because I fully agree! I want my future students to feel safe and welcomed in my classroom. By doing that I need to make sure that I am a good listener so that they are always open to sharing with me. Whether it be concerns they have, or

something amazing that's going on in their lives, I want my students to know that I am always available to listen. Mrs. Bliss and I got to have a conversation about how important we both think it is that students always have someone they feel comfortable going and talking to. It is evident that in her classroom this feeling is implemented. She has a box on her whiteboard that students can go drop notes in whenever they need. At the end of each day, Mrs. Bliss will look through the box and see what the note says so that she can talk to whoever needs to. I loved this idea and want to use it in my classroom in the future. By having this system, it shows how much a teacher truly cares about their students, which is what I strive to have in my classroom.

The biggest thing I took away from this interview was learning about “Restorative Practices.” I had never heard about this before and am now incredibly interested in how to use it in a classroom setting. When I asked how Mrs. Bliss handles discipline in her classroom, she referred to using the strategies of Restorative Practice. This technique is essentially a variety of ways to help improve relationships between people. Mrs. Bliss explained that whenever a student constantly has an attitude or acts up, it is most likely coming from an outside source that is the root of the problem. By taking the time to have one-on-one conversations with students, it shows that you are interested in them and want to make their life easier. By doing this, you build a positive relationship with the student and they are less likely to act up. I think that these techniques could be very helpful especially when dealing with disciplined students in a classroom. I plan to research more about restorative practices because I will definitely want to apply this throughout my career. Overall, my interview with Mrs. Bliss was extremely beneficial because it related to me personally on a variety of levels.