

Description:

The evidence presented here includes eight photographs of the third grade classroom for a Saturday class less that focused on interrelating visual art and music. There were fourteen 3rd graders, and they were introduced to Chinese ink drawings and watercolors. Students learned how to interpret and recreate the mood of a song in watercolor paintings using colors and shapes. The classroom decorations were authentic Chinese artifacts that served as visual educational aids. There was a carpet at the front of the room for students to sit on during demonstrations or readings. A name cup was used to randomize the process of calling on students to answer questions during the lesson. The teachers' names were displayed on a bright poster at the front of the room. A completed example of the project was also displayed. Students participated in a 'mood activity' in which they voted on the mood of famous paintings by putting paper symbols into envelopes. For example, if a student thought the mood of a painting was happy, they put the paper heart into the corresponding envelope for that painting. The desks in the room were arranged in a circle formation.

Rationale:

Decorating the room created an engaging and exciting learning environment for the students. A welcome message on the chalkboard and a poster, that displayed the teachers' names, helped to make the students feel comfortable. A name cup was useful for giving students equal opportunities to answer questions throughout the lesson by randomly drawing a name from the cup after each question. This strategy showed respect for each student. Because they could be asked a question at any time, they were held accountable for paying attention to the lesson helping to keep all students engaged. The desks were arranged in a circle formation and worked well for this age group. While I was helping individual students, I was still able to see all the other students. With this arrangement, behavioral problems were easier to prevent or see right away. Lastly, it was helpful for the students to see a finished project. Teacher examples of the project displayed on the wall, which got the students excited and eager to make their own paintings.



Back of the room Chinese artifacts, and a welcome message on the chalkboard.



Front of the room with carpet



Technology desk with map of China and Chinese Batik in background



Name cup