Quick Review

Let’s think back to what we have worked on in the course thus far:

1. We understand who we are and what role we play in educating the youth, right?

2. We understand what it means to learn something and the amount of time commitment and DESIRE it takes to accomplish this, right?

3. We understand that you need to create the physical environment of your classroom so that it is conducive to learning, comfort, culture, and experiences, right?
4. We realize that we will be working within a larger school and organization with a distinct culture and set of values, right?

5. We recognize that who we are and the values that we find to be important will greatly influence our classroom and students, right?
6. We recognize that we will be the authority “in charge” of 20-30 children for 180 school days and how to command it, right?

7. In order for effective teaching to take place good, sound, explained, rehearsed and reinforced procedures need to be developed, right?

8. We know that to be effective we need to diversify our learning experiences and be sure to build authentic motivation and engagement, right?
Lesson Planning: Get used to it!!!!!!!!!

I am not kidding when I say that many of the teacher that I speak with don’t lesson plan. I say, every good teacher lesson plans. Maybe not every day for every moment in your early career and maybe not every day and every moment once you have a great “bag of tricks”, but you will need to create exciting and meaningful lessons over your first 5 to 7 years. This will make you job easier for the rest of your career. You will be able to answer the question, “What am I teaching today?”

First off, lesson planning is the nuts and bolts of teaching. It is probably the most time consuming and difficult part of the teaching profession. It is also the most front heavy work a teacher must do before they enter into the classroom. If you are able to become a clear, concise and organized lesson planner you can have an amazingly successful and enjoyable career. Make sure that you understand and know the parts of a functional lesson plan. While they may be all kinds of formats that lessons plan are constructed in, it is likely that you will need these elements to be effective.

Secondly, recognize that lots of teachers will complain about standards and benchmarks. They might say, “they dictate what I teach” or “I have to cover too many things” or “good teaching already addresses”. All of these things are true, and this is part of the challenge of being a teacher. Challenges are a good thing, and standards are not that bad. They help you map out the skills you will be working on in your curriculum. They help you pace your teaching so that you can introduce appropriate content and experiences to your students. Standards are here to stay and if used properly and efficiently, they can take your teaching to the next level.
Finally, become familiar with all kinds of websites and others lesson plans. You will begin by sharing your lesson plans with classmates. You should continue to support fellow teachers as they will support you. Now, I say this with a grain of salt:

You don’t always have to reinvent the wheel, when you can just steal one!!!!!!!

NO (All the time)       Yes (Some of the time)