

Laura LaFrenier

E-Mail: lafrenierlaura@gmail.com

"Mrs. LaFrenier is a talented teacher who can really make a difference in a classroom."

Dave Turner, Marshall Middle School Principal

Certification

Michigan Secondary Education Provisional

July 12, 2010

Endorsements in Social Studies (RX) and English (BA).

Education

Master of Arts in Educational Technology

June 2011-Present

Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. Current GPA: 3.93.

Post-B.A. Secondary Teaching Certification (Social Studies and English)

Sept. 2008-May 2010

Spring Arbor University. Spring Arbor, MI. GPA: 3.92.

Bachelor of Arts (Honors Specialization in History with an English Minor)

Sept. 2004-May 2008

University of Western Ontario. London, ON, Canada. Studied wide variety of historical subjects and eras, above and beyond those required for a History Major.

Professional Experience

Eighth Grade Social Studies & Computers Teacher, Western Middle School, Parma, MI August 2012-Present

- Developed a wide range of engaging lessons with co-teacher including extensive "living through history" curriculum and technology-rich activities.
- Served as a teacher leader in a 1:1 iPad school by relaying tips and troubleshooting problems for other teachers.
- Developed an 18-week Digital Portfolio course for eighth graders including blogging and website creation.
- Built and maintained a positive rapport with students, parents, and colleagues through intentional communication, work ethic, and community involvement.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Social Studies Teacher, Olivet Middle School, Olivet, MI August 2011-June 2012

- Developed a variety of engaging standards-based lessons for the U.S. History curriculum (units, lessons, and assessments) while acting as lead Eighth Grade Social Studies Teacher.
- Effectively integrated writing and technology into the Social Studies curriculum with high expectations for student achievement and with Common Core Standards in mind.
- Adapted teaching and assessments to an inclusion classroom setting, building a rapport with and utilizing the advice and skills of the Special Education teacher and paraprofessionals.
- Built and maintained a positive rapport with students, parents, and colleagues through intentional communication, work ethic, and community involvement.

Eighth Grade History Teacher, Marshall Middle School, Marshall, MI

August 2010-June 2011

- Developed a rigorous U.S. History curriculum (units, lessons, and assessments) through cooperation with fellow teachers according to Michigan GLCEs and the Learning Design Model.
- Developed an Eighth Grade newspaper class to improve non-fiction writing skills.
- Adapted teaching and assessments to an inclusion classroom setting, building a rapport with and utilizing the advice and skills of the Special Education teacher.
- Built and maintained a positive rapport with students, parents, and colleagues through intentional communication, work ethic, and community involvement.

Student Teaching Experience

Middle School Social Studies/ELA Teacher, Western Middle School, Parma, MI **January-April 2010**

- Created assignments and rubrics to assess according to Michigan GLCEs. Engaged students in lessons with different learning styles in mind, using a variety of teaching strategies and activities.
- Utilized technology often, particularly as a source information for the students in conjunction with their reading of two historical novels.
- Adapted teaching and assessments to an inclusion classroom setting, building a rapport with and utilizing the advice and skills of the Special Education teacher.
- Engaged in frequent dialogue with parents to help children succeed through emails, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings.
- Assisted cooperating teacher with student government meetings.

Philosophy

I believe that all students can learn and that my job as an educator is to do everything in my power to ensure student learning – re-teaching and creating multiple opportunities for success included. In accordance with the Professional Learning Communities model, I believe in teacher collaboration and a classroom that is centered on student learning. I believe that clear, practiced, and enforced norms and procedures create a safe classroom environment conducive to student learning. I believe in varying my instruction to accommodate different learning styles and levels. Lastly, I believe in the power of technology to enhance student learning and support quality assessment and standards-based learning.

Professional Development

Jackson Intermediate School District EdTech Kickoff	August 2013
Michigan Flipped Classroom Conference	February 2013
Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) Conference	March 2012 & 2013
MSU College of Education Technology Conference	October 2012
Teaching and Learning in a Blended Environment (Developing a Moodle Course)	September 29, 2011
Learning Design Model Training and Unit Development	Sept. 2010- May 2011
Moodle Basics – Extend Your Classroom Online (Calhoun ISD class)	January 27, 2011
Data Basics Training (Data 4SS and Data Director)	August 16, 2010
Women in Leadership Conference, Spring Arbor University	April 2010 & 2011
Marzano Seminar on Formative Assessment and Standards-Based Grading	May 25-26, 2010

Volunteering and Committees

Hub Teen Center Volunteer Coordinator, Jackson, MI	June 2012-Present
School Improvement Committee Member, Western Middle School	September 2012-Present
Westwinds Community Church Youth Leader, Jackson, MI	Sept. 2008-June 2013
School Improvement Writing Committee Member	Sept. 2010-June 2011