

# Observation Reflection

---

**Applicant Name: Adam Andres**

**School/Subject/Grade level: NOVA Middle School/Science/7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**

**Supervisor at School Site: David Campbell**

My observation occurred at a unique time during the pandemic when I had the opportunity to be an observer in the physical classroom as well as the physical classroom. It was amazing to see the contrast in these different modes of teaching as in person learning resumed in May. The goals I had for my observation were to notice how students learn and to learn to make connections with students. Throughout virtual learning I found it hard to make connections or notice learning because most students chose to keep their cameras off and mostly remain silent during class. Mr. Campbell was excited to share lessons still, but I observed how deflating it could be for him not to be getting much feedback from students. But as we returned to in-person learning I was able to observe students learning, see how Mr. Campbell made connections with students and begin to begin to make connections myself.

In the physical classroom most days were spent taking advantage of the microscopes in Mr. Campbell's classroom. Throughout virtual learning the students had been studying cellular biology and with the microscopes it was finally time to look at cells up close. I loved working with the microscopes. It was an exciting experience for the students and because I was assisting students learn how to use the microscopes it was a great opportunity for me to make connections and notice how students were learning. What I observed was that each student is a little bit different. Some of the kids took to the microscopes with ease, while other struggled to bring them into focus. Some students were happy to make conversation while I got the sense that others need more space. At the end of my observation, I came to realize that it is the job of teachers to not only continue learning the subject that they teach but to continue to learn about students.

**a. How has your time volunteering and observing informed your decision to be a teacher?**