PTO-Sponsored Teacher Observations

Cyrus Cramer

Observation: January 2017

My name is Cyrus Cramer. I teach English here at Arcadia, and I was fortunate enough to be among the teachers who were enabled by the PTO's generosity to observe some of my colleagues at work.

First, I want to thank you and the PTO for making it all possible. I observed Mr. Luse's classes for two periods--Film I and Film II. I was reminded of the fact that student engagement is always, naturally higher when they are in a class they have chosen to take. But I must also say that Mr. Luse is an engaging teacher who does a good job of making his class interesting. Much of that is akin to the ideas in the PTO's teacher reading book by Ron Clark from last summer, which I read at the start of the year, and to things I already do.

One new thing I learned about from the observation was the manner in which Mr. Luse uses a slowly cycling PowerPoint, projected throughout the day, to keep the students abreast of the day's and upcoming assignments. That idea seems like it might mitigate the issue of students not reading the syllabus, not writing down verbal instruction, not checking the in class calendar, and not going to the website to stay informed about what is happening in class; I plan to begin using it in my classes once I have time to build a template and create a few days or weeks of slides. I will need to modify my use of it as my projector screen covers my whiteboard which I use almost daily for various notes, but I think in the end it will be beneficial.

Finally it was nice to reaffirm the fact that we have some good students here at Arcadia as evidenced by their enjoyment of Mr. Luse's courses, and their willingness to participate in their own education.

I thank you again for providing the opportunity,

Cyrus Cramer | English Teacher