Who Am I?

Name: Jenn Jiang

School: Sterling Hall School

Role: Visual Arts Primary Teacher

C21 Blog URL: https://cohort21.com/jenniferjiang/

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What action/learning did you set out to accomplish?

What was the "Why?" behind your action?. What motivated you to engage in this action? Paint a picture for us here.

As I am into my 2nd year as a primary arts teacher, I found it challenging for a lot of my young artists to be independent and confident in their drawing and learning skills in the art studio. I am often overwhelmed by the amount of questions after my demonstrations. From - can you help me draw this, to where is the ruler?

I was often asking myself, how can I become a better teacher in order to teach independence and grit in the creative process?

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What did you learn in the process ?

My students were not only lacking the independent skills, but also confidence and grit. They viewed me as the expert which is why they would always come to me for help.

As a school community, we've identified executive functioning as something that our students needed work on.

As a teacher, I needed to remove myself as the expert in order for my students to be empowered to learn from one another.

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What is your big take-away ?

To include and implement systems within the classroom that allow for my students to rely on one another and the resources for example signage and posters in the classroom. I also learned that my students are not codependent. they were just used to having their questions answered by me. Instead of always answering their questions, I would pause and ask myself, can the student get the answer from somewhere else?

Eg. 3 before me, anchor charts and anchor slide with instructions and reminders.

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