Mr. Knight’s In-Service Monday, November 26th

1. What school(s) do you plan to attend on November 26th and who is your contact person? Please make sure they clear it with their building principal.

Ms. Keninger and I attended St. Lambert’s Catholic Elementary School and out contact person there was Barb Lockwood.

1. What are your goals for the day?

Our goal for the day was to see different classroom management skills practiced out. We heard about the wonderful diversity the school had, so we wanted to see how that has affected the children and their learning. The major goal or need for visiting this school was to observe the one to one environment that their fifth graders had with the Ipads.

1. Please address the questions that pertain to your grade level with the teachers you observe:
* What are they doing for common core? The teachers of St. Lambert attended all the trainings that the state offered this past summer. They have also taken some in-service time to take a standard and assess what each grade is doing to meet and master that standard.
* Is their school doing anything with Charlotte Danielson? The principal is observing and using the Charlotte Danielson for the evaluations of teachers that have been teaching in her building longer than three years. For the other teachers that have taught three years or less she is using her “old” observation tool that she believes works. She is introducing the Charlotte Danielson to these newer teachers for their awareness.
* What types of things do they do at their inservices? The activities they partake in during in-service vary depending on needs and topics. This year they have focused on Common Core Standards and how they are going to affect them and their classrooms. The fifth grade teacher has used the time to build her curriculum with the Ipad.
* Do they have iPads – if so, how do they use them. The fifth grade classroom is a one to one Ipad environment. The fifth graders will take their current Ipads to sixth grade next year and the fifth will get new ones. There were no other teachers or classrooms that had them.
* Are they still teaching typing and if so, which grade do they start with and what program do they use? St. Lamberts teaches keyboarding starting in first grade. They share a computer teacher with the other Catholic Schools so the students there only get it once a week. They use the first ten to fifteen minutes typing.
* Do they utilize standards based report cards? If so please ask for a copy. The school tried to use standards based report cards last year and it was not well received by the parents. So they have switched back to traditional report cards but have produced a packet for parents with the standards in them. They use the standards at conference time to discuss things that the students have done and need to do.

We arrived at the school and received a short school tour from the principal. She had to attend a meeting so we joined the first grade classroom during their reading time. We got to see the combination of whole language and phonics being taught. It is always nice to see where our students start and how they get to us in fourth and fifth grade. The lesson was supposed to be whole language only, but because of this teachers belief in phonics and her students’ needs she added the phonics portion in. We gained some classroom management strategies from this teacher and ways to help us to reward students for positives behaviors. The first graders then attended their physical education class. At this time we continued our school tour with the elementary principal. After the tour we were invited into the fourth grade classroom to observe a math lesson. It was the first day of two digit by two digit multiplication. Not teaching math any more it gave me a real appreciation for her allowing us to observe her classroom. Her Ms. K gained some strategies in teaching this lesson to her fourth graders in the future. We had a chance to discuss some different math series as they had just made a change in series as well. In this classroom we also had the opportunity to obtain different ideas to help motivate students and manage our classrooms more effectively. Upon completion of the fourth grade math lesson we rejoined the principal and discussed the different questions that were previously answered. It was a quality discussion we were able to have and a time to compare and contrast the things we do with others. Our final stop was to join the fifth grade classroom observing the afternoon in a one to one Ipad classroom. We had a chance to see all the different things they use the Ipads for in their curriculum. It was enlightening for us to see that we are doing many of the same things with a school that is one to one and to know that we are really close to allowing our students the same experiences. Like many of the classroom technologies of today the Ipads in their classroom really brought ownership to learning.

1. Please email a synopsis of the day to your principal highlighting what you feel was the most important thing you learned from your day away from our school by Thursday, Nov. 29th.