IZVJEŠĆE S TEČAJA:

Classroom management, Conflict management, EI and bullying prevention

Barcelona, 8. – 19. srpnja 2019.

The course I signed up for was intended for teachers in order to incorporate more creative teaching methods in their classrooms and share their knowledge as well as experience with other teachers from around Europe. The course focused on classroom management, conflict management, EI and bullying prevention in a beautiful and inspiring city, Barcelona. The course was a two-week session. Here are summaries of the categories in question.

Classroom management:

We talked about creativity within the classroom, so the instructor demonstrated how to use the Google classroom. You can stream some interesting videos, make notes, comment and share all this to your class by using this app. There is the possibility of giving tests, handing out assignments, marking students and getting their remarks afterwards. It can be useful but the only drawback is that it is not free.
We also discussed visual intelligence and why it can be useful in the classroom. You allow students to focus on details, use their ability to associate things, use their imagination by describing images that you had chosen and prepared a lesson plan around. This allows for the class to have debates, allowing them to convince the others that their perception of the image is correct. Along with that you have a detailed lesson plan and guide the students towards the things you want them to achieve such as using descriptive language, correct tenses or simply developing their speaking skills and all of this occurs by just using a pre-selected image as your tool for the lesson and relying on their visual intelligence. This falls under VTS (visual thinking strategies).
Another interesting approach in creating interest in the classroom are apps that could be motivating for teachers and students such as Edpuzzle and Plickers, Kahoot, Quizziz etc. It allows the teacher to dictate and control the tempo of the lesson with the aid of various apps. They also allow for students to self-evaluate without being exposed to other students and be more confident in their results, all by being guided by the teacher the entire time.

Conflict management:

We talked about our definition of it. Many believed that conflict appears in many situations such as finances, politics, religion, racial tension, generation gaps…We all had our own lists of what can cause conflict in society but one that I particularly found interesting was when someone mentioned that being an authority at the workplace or having a function there can lead to conflicts many times. If there is no clear person in charge then this can often cause a hostile atmosphere within the workplace, there

should be a clear go-to person so that issues may be handled on time and efficiently. We focused on how to build a rapport with other people, your students or colleagues. There are 5 conflict handling positions that can be categorized as follows:

Avoiding

Accommodating

Competing

Compromising

Collaborating

These are positions that people hold within a conflict. A person may have one of these but can also have a combination of positions. There is no better or worse position but it can say something about our character. We then discussed the role of team leader implications. There are certain stages that must be done in any group in order to avoid certain conflicts and have everyone on board when achieving common goals. These stages are:

Forming (break the ice, set norms in communication)

Storming (competing, face underlying concerns)

Norming (issues resolved, subgroups disappear, identify norms and assist groups in team building activities)

Performing (members trying and accepting ideas, creativity)

Adjourning (summarizing, closing up topics/situations)

For this we need to have a strong team, there are 8 Cs for team building:

Clear expectations

Commitment

Competence

Control

Collaboration

Communication

Creativity

Coordination

To sum up, in order to solve conflicts and have WIN/WIN situations, we need to take all of this into account

Emotional intelligence:

Emotional intelligence or emotional quotient was a term formulated by two researchers John Mayer and Peter Salavoy. The same term emotional intelligence was made prominent by Dan Goleman in his book called emotional intelligence in 1996. Peter Salovey was the one who developed the Ability model in 2004 along with John Mayer. This Ability model focuses on the ability of the individual in order to process emotional information and lead it to a social environment. It entails the following.

1. Perceiving emotions: This is characteristic in order to detect the emotions in voices, faces, pictures and cultural artifacts.

2. Making use of emotions: The capability to harness emotions so that various cognitive activities are facilitated which include problem-solving.

3. Understanding emotions: The capability to cover up emotion language and also to treasure complicated relationships along with emotions.

4. Management of emotions: This is the capability to regulate emotions in both others and in ourselves.

In Emotional Intelligence, there are 4 dimensions, they are as follows:

Social awareness

Relationship management

Self-management

Self-awareness

Social awareness is basically empathy. Relationship management is how you handle your relations/connections and what you do or not in order to maintain a certain relationship. Self-management, I believe is how you control yourself, keeping your emotions in check especially when interacting with others. Self-awareness, I believe is about self-reflection, a time to analyze yourself or even a time to clear your mind, reboot and move on. We all feel certain emotions on a daily basis or during certain periods so when speaking about a school context, it is important to ask our students how they feel on a daily basis, get them to share their feelings as this may put them at ease and help them work more efficiently.

Bullying prevention:

Here are some useful approaches when dealing with bullying. Our Finnish colleague presented the Kiva approach which is a Finnish approach but is accessible to everyone. It is basically a whole platform for when bullying takes places in a school context and the procedures that should be taken to reduce the possibility of it happening again. It is really well organized with clear instructions on what to do in those circumstances. This approach is implemented in all Finnish state schools. Another good thing to use is the Mightifier platform. It is designed to build self-esteem and create a bond among students. In short, students have a list of words that they can use to describe another student in a positive manner for any reason, such as doing something well in class. The teacher gets to monitor what was written before it is published and sent to the person in question.

On balance, it was a very good experience and time well spent. We all shared ideas and experiences that could benefit our work in the classroom. Meeting colleagues and networking will certainly be beneficial. Our teacher elaborated on all the subjects in question by giving us new insight and refreshing our existing knowledge on the subjects mentioned. I certainly hope I will have more opportunities to do more courses and continue developing my professional skills.