

COMPILATION: Substitute Teachers and Lesson Plans

Date: Mon, 15 Oct 2001

From: Joseph Vanderway <jvanderway@CSUN.EDU>

Subject: Substitute Teachers & Lesson Plans

I'd like to know what other modelers do when they have to be out of the classroom. It seems to me that while Modeling is very "student centered" it relies heavily on the instructor knowing just how to guide the class (See DH's stuff on discourse). So what do you do when you are not actually in the classroom (because you must attend a meeting, go to a conference, run a workshop, or are - gosh- sick)?

Four of my 5 classes have no textbook issued to them. I can't trust that my sub will be able to deal with the difficulties of lab, much less that of a whiteboard session...

So what do you do?

From: Richard McNamara <richmcn@EARTHLINK.NET>

Subject: Re: Substitute Teachers & Lesson Plans

I show videos from the Mechanical Universe that are appropriate to the material we're covering at that time or I schedule a quiz for those days. They can certainly hand out and collect quizzes. On the other hand, if you've got a student teacher, you can trust them to continue covering material in your absence.

Date: Mon, 15 Oct 2001

From: Fran Poodry <FPoodry@AOL.COM>

I have had students whiteboard while I am out...as long as we are far enough into the year that they are comfortable with questioning each other. I have also had them work on a worksheet in pairs or small groups. I also don't mind letting them do something a little more relaxing on the rare days that I am out...watch a Junkyard Wars video (a program on the TLC cable channel) and report on the physical principles involved, or even do one of my very very difficult word searches. :-)

They don't have to learn something meaningful every second of every day. Plus, I have a small stock of "read-and-answer" worksheets based on physics-related news articles. It's not modeling, but these are in the emergency folder in case I am surprised by an absence. (i.e. SICK)

Date: Tue, 16 Oct 2001

From: Patricia MacEgan <pmacegan@CWIA.COM>

Subject: Re: Substitute teachers and lesson plans.

From first hand experience, I'd say give the sub a period's worth of practice problems on the concept you are on at the time. From personal experience, I know that anything else doesn't get treated as you would treat it.

Videos that could work if you are at the right spot are Hewitt's videos that go with his Conceptual Physics program, or the Mechanical Universe. Colleen K. left an abundance of those with me when she left, and they are very useful! But don't expect the sub to make any headway at all on worksheets or whiteboards. I know from experience that it doesn't work.