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Valparaiso University

The Response of a High School Student in a Trimester Term

Amy Ketchum—Physical Education-Secondary Education
ED452 Seminar: Undergraduate Research

INTRODUCTION

This study was done to research the behaviors and transitions that students go through throughout the schooling process. The students in this study attend a school who are on three trimesters, rather than two semesters, that make up their school year. This made it difficult to come in as a student teacher and take over classes because they were right in the middle of the trimester, and their routines were threatened, and ultimately changed with a different teacher, rather than what they were used to. Therefore, this study looks at the effects of how the students respond to having their routine threatened.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

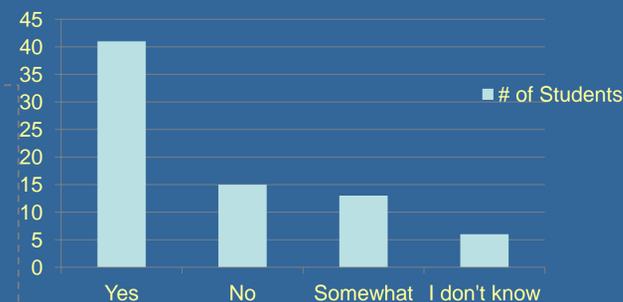
After a few weeks when I took over the classes, I gave the students in the second trimester a survey made up of three questions asking about their routines being threatened and their transitional period from their regular teacher to the student teacher. I also gave the students in the third trimester a different survey asking them about their routines being threatened. Observations were also taken during each trimester to aid in the research process.

CONTACT

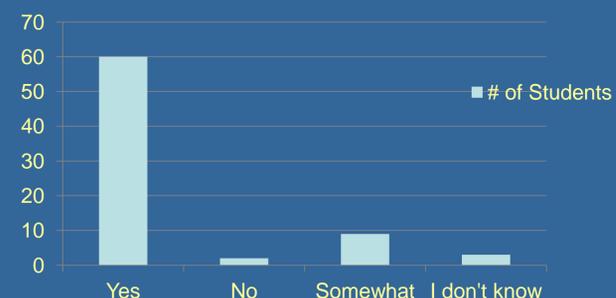
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RESULTS

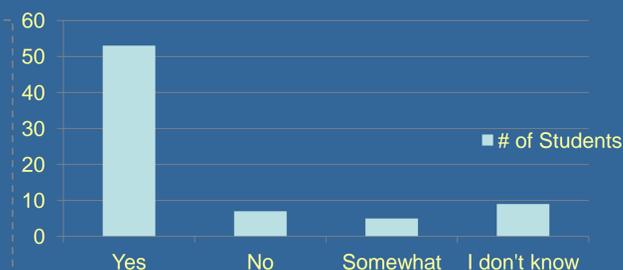
Trimester 2: Was the transition from your regular teacher to the student teacher easy?



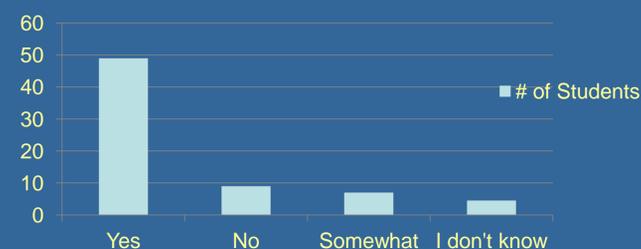
Trimester 2: If you had the same routine every single day, then it was changed, would you feel different? Would it take some time to get used to the new routine?



Trimester 2: Do you think it would have been easier to start the trimester off with the student teacher instead of the regular teacher?



Trimester 3: If you had the same routine every single day, then it was changed, would you feel different? Would it take some time to get used to the new routine?



DISCUSSION

With the school being on trimesters, it offers students the opportunity to take more classes. However, there are some transitional aspects that make it rough for student teachers coming in to complete their required semester taking on and teaching a full course load. Student teachers have many things they have to worry about, and coming in in the middle of the class makes it more difficult to do their ultimate goal, which is to keep their students engaged in their classroom. Therefore, schools should look into more research based on the advantages and disadvantages of having trimesters versus semesters.

CONCLUSIONS

The research shows that the students in the second trimester classes had a hard time with the transitional process from their regular teacher to the student teacher. The results from the survey and the observations made in class give us evidence of these findings. The third trimester classes started off strong with the student teacher because they did not have to go through the transitional process. They were able to continually be engaged throughout classroom activities and discussions because they were not faced with the diversity of the transitional period. Observations showed the third trimester students were much more focused than the second trimester students, and they did not question the student teacher's teaching style because they had nothing to compare it to, unlike second trimester students.

REFERENCES

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