

100

Things that surprised me were...



1. I got to be a cheer coach
2. I have an I-Pad and Mac book (so resourceful)
3. How fast the year went; how much easier year #2 has been
4. How different it was coming from Math to Social Studies and how many teachers were willing to help you whenever you asked them
5. Campus kindness and student behavior
6. How smart the kids were and how many teams weren't on the same page
7. All of the writing and paperwork associated with my SpEd position. I knew it would be a lot, but I had no idea.. and how slow I was at grading papers! I got a little better towards the end of the year
8. The administrative tasks, how quickly it is to get off track and lose time
9. The negative culture and climate of the building, the behavior of my students and their ability to stick to the rules till the end of the school year
10. The amount of time on developing lessons for a heterogeneous group of learners. The amount of required training spent on necessary software that was not user friendly
11. How much easier it was to start my school year and my mentor was always asking me if I needed anything, regardless of this being my 2nd year
12. How much I remembered from year 1; how much team planning makes the process faster
13. My classroom being a revolving door—I had 5 students move away and 4 students move here throughout the year; how a school could run out of/have a limited supply of paper at the end of the year. Teachers are constantly using their own money for things in the classroom
14. The kids; personalities
15. How much is expected of an elementary teacher
16. How unappreciative some students can be and how genuinely appreciative most students are
17. Kids' willingness to get zeros and that everyone had an I-Pad
18. Testing process/schedule; getting a new student a week before finals
19. How fast paced education is; how organized the structure of the school is
20. How approachable my principal was; how responsive my administrators were to getting additional materials for my classroom
21. Mixture of kids learning capabilities; attention spans
22. How appreciative students were for little rewards and treats
23. Disrespect of children/students seems to be getting worse; lack of parent involvement
24. The amount of "Behind the scenes" work; the amount of drama
25. The number of CBAs the students were required to take
26. Class size (smaller)
27. How quickly I learned the curriculum
28. How much improvement I saw in myself as a teacher
29. The abilities of 5th graders; social level of some students
30. How difficult the schedule can be without a bell
31. How thin I can stretch myself

32. How low my students' basic skills seemed; how eager students are to come in for tutoring before or after school—even the kids you wouldn't expect
33. How well students welcomed FLS students into the class; how well students can teach other students what to do when needed (students that were absent)
34. How disconnected the SpEd dept. is from all grade levels; how disconnected the SpEd dept. within itself is so disconnected
35. Having to learn Braille; having 14 boys in my class
36. How difficult it would be to work with my team; the stress of being responsible for 3 STAARS tests
37. How much more difficult kinder work is now—not always developmentally appropriate
38. How naturally things came to me
39. Not having enough time to really get to know students
40. The long hours and weekends
41. The lack of available technology
42. How much I like intermediate. I never thought I would leave elementary. So glad I did
43. I wasn't prepared for just how attached I would be to my kids—even the stinkers; how completely exhausting the first 6-10 weeks were
44. The trainings and amount of time I took off for them
45. How difficult it is coming back from maternity leave; our math TEKS are changing
46. The drama 8 year olds can have
47. Inclusion of all students on campus
48. How different each class combination behaved; the tension between team members, if left unresolved, causes awkwardness
49. I did not realize how many kids come from broken homes, and how many kids come from rough backgrounds
50. How much students cared about me
51. How rewarding a job is when you are in it for the outcome, not the income
52. The amount of data calculations and spreadsheets
53. How upset parents can get even though I try to accommodate them to the best of my ability
54. How difficult it is when you need a substitute
55. The hoops I have jumped through and the negative perception of me
56. All the new changes/challenges; loving all data info (DRA, ISIP, etc.)
57. Change of position at end of year; my ability to handle change
58. The amount of teacher drama/gossip that occurs in the building
59. How many things I needed to keep track of
60. How much stuff the kids leave—everywhere; how easy it was to have e-mail linked to phone
61. How much I learned by going into other teachers classes and watching their management skills, approaches to teaching
62. How unmotivated some kids already are at such a young age; how many different people I have to be on a daily basis (mom, counselor, teacher, friends, disciplinarian, etc.)
63. The high middle-eastern population
64. The amount of time testing that is required of 7 and 8 year olds (CBA's, at least 3 per six weeks). It takes away instructional time
65. My students and how much they taught me; how fast/easily things get broken
66. Purchasing process -- unlike other school taught at—long waits
67. Think Tanks – amount of work involved
68. The effort and time to create Think Tanks

69. How quickly a 45 minute planning period goes by
70. The gaps in background knowledge that many of my students had
71. How difficult finding a sub can be
72. That newcomer students take the STAAR in English and their scored count for us
73. It's hard to decide when to "move on" from a topic/lesson/unit, you want to make sure they "get it", but there's a lot of content to cover over the year
74. Expectations were not always clear
75. Seeing students' faces after they accomplished something!!! Most really want to learn
76. How much "non-teaching" work is involved in teaching; how much I love it!! I feel so lucky to have my job at this school with this staff
77. How much 1st grader learn/grow in a year. Holy cow, they can write well!!!
78. How much emotion I will invest in every student, every year. I love those kids; how sharing a laugh with a teammate on a bad day can make everything better
79. How students will go out of their way to either help or hinder classroom instruction
80. The abundant amount of parental involvement and support
81. Have more classroom decorations
82. Be more strict and demand more of my students
83. Collect papers differently
84. Keep up with grading
85. Manage my time better
86. Use conference time more
87. Use the computer lab more often
88. Be more organized
89. Have a syllabus
90. Offer tutoring earlier in the year
91. Prepare before the first day of school
92. Develop a routine
93. Take roll
94. Get help or assistance when I need it
95. Collaborate more with my mentor
96. Lesson plans
97. Create supplemental activities
98. Laugh more
99. Stress Less
100. Communicate more with parents