

My instructional dream would be to teach all of the students at the same time and feel that I was meeting all of their needs. For example, when I teach reading, I would love to challenge the ones that need the extra challenge, yet teach the ones who are struggling more, all at the same time; giving each of them the same amount of time and attention that they need. I think as a teacher and a parent this has been one of my greatest frustrations with education. It is hard when you are the only one in the classroom to give instruction and to feel that the instruction you are giving is an all around beneficial experience.

Another dream I have is to have smaller class sizes every year. I am fortunate to have only 13 students in my classroom right now but I know that that will not always be the situation. I think that when you do have smaller class sizes you do have more quality instructional time because you are not dealing with as many mixed personalities, therefore, making less time directed toward classroom management. For classroom sizes that are larger, as they often are in many schools, my dream would be to have at least one co-teacher in the room at the same time I was in the room. This would allow myself and the co-teacher to work more one-on-one with students or to have more than one small group of students working with us, while the students who are more capable of working by themselves are working.

The last thing that I would want in my “dream” classroom would be adequate supplies for all students in every subject area. So many times there are “extra” activities to accompany each lesson but those “extras” often require the extra materials as well. Many schools do not have funding to provide these materials the activities often get pushed aside or adjustments are made, which often make the activity less affective. The one supply that most classrooms lack is technology. Many times you will see a computer in the classroom but that computer is only for the teacher to use. Another piece of technology, which is considered to be out-of-date for some school districts, is an overhead projector. This simple device can aid in instruction in a number of ways. Not only is the teacher able to work along with the students so that the entire class can view what they are doing, but it also allows the students to demonstrate their abilities and provide examples for the other members of the class.