



Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology

10444 Tillery Road, Spring Hill, Florida 34608

Main: (352)688-5092

FAX: (352)688-5095

Thank you for your interest in working as an Language Arts / Reading teacher at GCA. I would be pleased if you could accomplish the following (as part of our initial selection process), finalists will be invited to interview in Florida. Please try to turn them around within the next day or so.

Please reply to each numbered item in a separate email message. You do not necessarily need to submit your responses in any particular order.

1. Please visit the following website: <http://www.fl DOE.org/edcert/> Please tell us about your Florida certification status. Do you already have a certificate, if not have you initiated the application process? Will your Florida teaching certificate include grades 6-9 or 6-12? What are your areas of certification or expected areas of certification? When will your certificate be issued / expire? Do you have a reading endorsement or the ability to obtain this endorsement? When will you be available to visit our school for an interview? What is your availability to begin work after July 1, 2008?

2. Please visit the following website: <http://www.my.hrw.com> Use the following login information: User Name: NTEACHER Password: x5t2 Choose "Holt Online Essay Scoring" Choose "Narrative" Choose Option 4 "Your best day in school." Please write a 300-400 word narrative essay expressing your best day as a teacher or student teacher.

Note: It is best to compose your essay off-line in a word processing program, save your work, then copy and paste your finished product into the HRW website. When you have submitted your finished essay, please click the "Get Your Score" option. We are not as interested in the score you receive as your receptiveness to implementing this type of cutting edge technology into your curriculum.

3. After experiencing the HRW online essay scoring system through the eyes of a student, please offer your comments and ideas on how you would use this tool as a teacher.

4. Consider the following scenario: The sixth graders are going to swim with manatees! On their trip they will ride a boat to a secluded location, don a wetsuit for the first time in their lives and enter the chilly water to view or even touch a "sea cow" in their native environment. You've asked them to describe their experience to you (in writing) and most of them write something like this: "On Monday we went to swim with the manatees, it was fun but the water was cold. - The end."

Since this isn't exactly the type of descriptive essay you had in mind and the imagery was a bit lacking, you draw upon all of your teaching resources to create a sequence of events, activities and instruction that will ultimately result in a high quality descriptive essay filled with colorful anecdotes, detailed images, spiced with simile, adorned with alliteration and speckled with onomatopoeia.

**info@gulfcoastacademy.org
<http://www.gulfcoastacademy.org>**

Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology is committed to providing students a unique education through weekly field experiences integrated with a hands-on advanced middle school curriculum.



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How might you structure your lessons to build to an end result that will meet your learning goals?

5. Next, please visit the following website: <http://www.fl DOE.org/bii/curriculum/sss/> Familiarize yourself with the Sunshine State Standards for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Then please read the Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology mission statement: "Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology is committed to providing our students with a unique education through weekly field experiences integrated with an advanced hands-on middle school curriculum." Since the school is founded on the premise of integrating the core classes with field experiences, how would you design a reading lesson for the 7th grade given the following:

- a. the science class is learning about the exploration of the solar system;
- b. the technology classes are creating planetary websites;
- c. the field activity program (FAP) is taking the students to launch rockets
- d. the social studies program is discussing the origin of the USA space program
- e. the math class is teaching the students to calculate the altitude of their rocket in the field
- f. the English class...

6. Lastly, GCA is a no-fail school. Teachers assign activities that are meaningful, relevant, and help to reinforce one or more educational goals. Most students turn in their work on-time and receive full credit, a few are absent and are automatically granted a reasonable extension, while one or two others pretend the assignment never existed. Even though "late" work is accepted for reduced credit difficult students aren't always willing to take the initiative or "get their house in order" on their own. What proactive measures can you as the teacher take to make sure that students follow through on their responsibilities in your class?

When creating your responses please indicate your name and the response number in the subject line; again, please respond to each of the five inquiries separately. Example:

Please reply if you have any questions or need anything clarified. Mr. Siefert and I look forward to receiving your responses.

Best regards, -- J. A. Gatti

Joseph A. Gatti
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