

Key points from the class, it seems that most teachers are at a 4. I feel that I am at a 3. Which is low for me. We are in week 6 and I feel that my students are still learning our routines and my expectations because they are just so talkative all the time. Hopefully they will get used to my expectations soon so we can start getting everything completed for the day.

I agree with your opinion that we as teachers need to be vulnerable. I always start the beginning of the year off with reading the book *Chrysalis* and explaining to my students how I always hated my first name and the embarrassment it caused me when substitute teachers mispronounced it and called me “Micheal” because I was so shy and my classmates would all correct the sub by shouting out the correct pronunciation of my name and prolong the embarrassment. But, I always tell them that I love my name now because it is unique. I think that students need to see the “human” side of us. Especially when we make mistakes, so that they see it is okay and that everyone makes mistakes.

To me, the culture of STEM represents to me a modern concept of bringing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to students. I also think of STEM being more female dominated as well. I think it’s because most of my classmates have been female teachers in the Endeavor program. This is refreshing to me as a woman of color since I have always thought of Scientists being white men. Which is probably why I always set low expectations for myself in math and science. I always tell my young students (5 and 6 year olds) that we are all natural scientists because that is the way we were made in order to survive. I absolutely agree with you that we as teachers have an obligation to our students to break stereotypes of what scientists look like and we also owe it to them to encourage all levels of thinkers to think of themselves as scientists, engineers and mathematicians. I agree that the NGSS’s practices are more student friendly and that the traditional scientific method is (thankfully) not the one and only way to approach science.

Things that I do in my classroom to model good scientists are; tell my students that every human is a natural born scientist because we use our instincts and senses to survive.