**2. Description of the Educational Setting:**

**Sociocultural Context:**

The unit I designed on Identity is for 5th graders at Clara Love Elementary in Northwest ISD. The school is located in a newly developed area of Justin which until recently was very rural so there is quite a mix of students. There are new subdivisions built up and around the school that add to a wide variety of students coming into the school. There is a mix of race but the school is made up of predominantly white students. The community surrounding the school seems to be fairly settled but there are subdivisions where people are more than likely coming and going from the area. The surrounding community seems somewhat supportive of the visual arts programs at the school but there isn’t much going on other than what the art teacher promotes. She is kind of in her own little world at the school. There is a lot of participation from the high school that is across the street from the school. They have buddies for the elementary students and programs for high school students to come into the art classroom and student teach. The closest art museums are in Fort Worth, which is about 20 miles away. Other than local museums there are not many other resources for the art classroom. I believe that the other art teachers from the other elementary schools in the district talk to one another but that is about it.

**Learning Environment:**

The school as a whole is a very positive environment as far as the staff goes. The students seem very content and there aren’t any major incidents that I have noticed. There are about 740 students at the school so it is a very large school with enough room in the school for growth. In the Northwest school district once you reach a total of 800 students in the elementary schools there can be more than one art teacher in the school. The school is very clean, organized and very orderly. Most of the 5th grade classes that come into the art classroom are pretty large and total to around 36 students at a time rotating in the art classroom. I’m not aware of any “exceptional learners” in the classroom but I have noticed that most of the students have had previous art classes. Some students excel more than others in the visual arts because they seem to be interested and focused on the task at hand. There are many different art supplies in the classroom and they are organized very nicely in the cabinets and the flex space. The budget for the art class is $1200/year and I’m not sure that is enough to get by without having people donate materials for the classroom. At this school there are many materials available to help with instruction. There are IPads, laptops and overhead projectors. The school district makes technology a priority and if you reserve the cart of IPads children can use apps to help supplement learning or use the camera to take pictures to use in their artwork. In the hallway there are many places up and down the hallways for exhibiting artwork but I’m not aware of other places in the community that you can use for exhibits. I do think it is important to keep the school’s hallways full of children’s artwork so that the school and the parents understand what is happening in the art classroom. As far as collaborating with other teachers I feel that there are as many options as a teacher is willing to use. If I have a good relationship with any of the teachers there are options of creating art that goes hand in hand with what students are learning in other lessons.