

Observation Summary

For my placement, I had the chance to be in a third grade classroom. I was very excited when I first heard who the teacher was as I already knew her. The only nerve wracking thing for me was walking into an unfamiliar school knowing that I eventually have to teach a class of third graders a lesson. This placement was full of growth, laughter, and overall a fun experience for both the class and myself.

I was able to be in the classroom during their math lesson time which made me happy, because I love math. This was one of the joys that I found in this placement, I was able to take my passion for something and share it with others. Most kids don't love math, but my goal as a teacher is to make math as tolerable as possible. I can't enter teaching with the mindset that every kid I teach will love math, because it isn't likely, but if I can at least not have them dread it, then it will be a job well done on my part.

One of the frustrations I found while in this placement was that no matter how many times you explain something, there still may be kids who just don't get it. This never means to give up, but rather to find a different approach. It eventually will click, but it might take one magic word and that takes time. With that, it has been important to see how kids learn differently. I had always known that this was true, but never really saw it until this placement. The difference in ability levels was all over the board. Again, this doesn't mean give up, but it means that as a teacher you have to dig deep and figure out how you can teach something many ways with a very limited amount of time. This is going to take a lot of creativity, but I am up for the challenge.

This leads right into some of the demands of teaching and I think one of the biggest ones is time. There are going to be many times as a teacher that you will have to get creative and find a different way to approach a lesson and that is going to take time and energy outside of school. Also, grading and correcting can't always be done in school and may need to be brought home which again is demanding of your time. Although you do have school hours, teaching never ends because there is still a chance you could see your students outside of school and you still want to be that good role model even outside of the classroom. There is a demand on time for teachers, but I think that if you really love teaching, you will make the time for your students.

I went into this experience thinking I wanted to be a high school math teacher and I came out of this experience feeling the same way. Being able to teach math to these kids helped to reassure myself that math is what I love. It also made me realize once again that elementary school kids are probably not for me, just because they are learning more basic concepts and for me personally, I want more of a challenge. Also, as younger kids their brains process slower which made me realize I have to be extremely patient and I know being a high school student myself, that yes, you still have to be patient at this level, but not as much. Things move faster at the highschool level. Also, I have loved my high school experience and I want to give students the chance to have a wonderful experience as well. I want to be there as they start thinking about college and their next steps in life, which is why I see myself as a future high school math teacher.

The school I was at is currently giving students a high quality education. The environment feels safe and welcoming, but also is challenging the kids to think critically. The majority of the kids seem happy to be at school, which is always promising. I was glad that I had

the opportunity to be in a classroom at Lincoln Elementary because it was different than my elementary school experience and again helped to reassure my future career decisions.

After another wonderful placement, I view teaching as a powerful career. You have the lives of so many students in your hands to help shape and mold their brains. You are apart of their life and are helping them decide who they are as a person. I see learning and school as a necessity. Every child should have the chance to receive an education. So many times, we take it for granted and don't realize how truly important it is. Teachers are providing so many tools for children and if things continue as they are, the world is going to be taken by storm. The future is bright in education and I am looking forward to being apart of it.