

Weekly Field Placement Journal

Week of: February 18th – February 24th

Hours This Week: 16

Hours This Semester: 253.75

Monday February 18th

No Data

Tuesday February 19th

Double Training at Calvin Donaldson Environmental Science Academy (K – 5th Grade). Double training is when Jessica and I are teaching at the same school but different classes so that all students receive the lesson. This school is different than one's I have taught at thus far because it's more urban and Title 1. I observed that this school consisted of majority African American and Latino background students. Overall their behavior was good but they are more talkative to each other and disruptive. The fifth grade class was the only one I had a challenge with, in which I became frustrated. The librarian took almost ten minutes before I began presenting to gain control of the class and I observed the power struggle between student and teacher. The students were not responsive to the consequences mentioned in that they seemed to not care and challenged what was being said to them. During my presentation I did have to pause for a few minutes because I realized that majority of the class was not paying attention and I did not want to compete by attempting to talk over them. Because of this I was not able to say everything I wanted to but I still completed the lesson timely. I was frustrated with this class because I felt like they were not paying attention, not engaged, and often disruptive. I did not want to waste time nor did I want to get into a power struggle with the students so I thought the best thing in the moment was to stop everything and wait. The librarian did step in when needed to address the class as I did not feel confident to tackle asserting my authority. Asserting my authority when I am teaching has been something that I have struggled with internally because typically a staff member in the room steps up to correct behavior or control the class when necessary. I have utilized classroom management techniques but not in a power control way. When I discuss my rules before I teach I do mention that I do not like yell and want them to show me that they know how to control their own bodies, but I have realized that there may be times where I will need to use my own voice since I am the presenter. Guidance counselors let the students know to be on their best behavior to treat me with the same respect like they do their own teachers but I am starting to think that the follow-up by me speaking up may be necessary for reinforcement. I noticed that I was becoming frustrated and I did everything in my power to remain neutral facially so that it wouldn't be visible to them and also so that I myself remain in control. I am really proud of myself for being self-aware enough to consciously recognize the onset of a negative emotion and knowing how my affect changes based on how I feel so that I could regain composure and remain professional. I think I have mentioned this fact before but I am seeing improvement in this area. The rest of the classes were fine and yes they were all just as talkative as the fifth graders but they were manageable and tolerable. I would say that the responses I receive back when asking questions are from the same students and everyone else is silent. I pondered the appropriateness of drawing out those that are silent for increased engagement in the conversation but I was conflicted because I didn't want to single them out or force them to talk.

Formal Supervision: After that class I informed Jessica and Marvelle that I needed to talk to them due to the one class that caused frustration. Since Jessica was not there I told her what was going on just to inform her how the day went and talk out what happened. Marvelle and I started our supervision phone conference by discussing the day's events as well as my thoughts and feelings about the situation. Marvelle assured me that I handled the situation well in the moment and reminded me that strategies don't always work for all schools and grades. Marvelle and I also discussed the diversity observations I have made between the students and schools I have already been to in comparison to this one. Afterwards Marvelle and I briefly discussed the previous week's activities.