Self Evaluation Narrative

This was a very interesting field experience for me. This is my third experience and it differed greatly from the first two experiences in many ways. I was quite surprised to find out that I was placed so far away. I can understand how difficult it is to find teachers that are willing to take on students in their classroom, so I am grateful for the opportunity no matter how far it was.

With every experience, there are always lessons to be learned. Even the negative experiences that I had during this field experience will help me as I enter the workplace. Three positive aspects that I have gained through this field work are seeing how a school day actually unfolds from a teacher’s perspective, interacting with so many different students, and being able to teach the same lesson several times.

It was interesting to be in a school building every day versus just a few days a week. I really got a good feel for how hectic and filled with interruptions a school day really is for both the students and for the teacher. It is a fast paced environment and the teacher needs to stay organized to keep things flowing smoothly.

The students are always my favorite part of any field experience. I like to get to know the students as quickly as possible, especially their names. Since the teacher did not have a seating chart, I was trying to memorize names as I looked at the papers they were working on. It was a challenge, but it worked out in the end. I hated to leave them.

This was also the first true middle school I have been in. Both prior experiences were self-contained classrooms, with only one rotation for a subject. The pace is very different in a situation where students are leaving after 40 minutes. There is very little room for error in timing. It is nice to be able to teach the same lesson multiple times and improve on what I did the first class compared to the next class.

Two negative aspects of the field work were coping with the OAA and my cooperating teacher’s lack of organization. OAA review was the dullest experience I have ever had in a classroom. I incorporated technology to make review games to break up the monotony which was a nice change for the students. And sadly, my cooperating teacher was extremely disorganized. She did not seem to have a clear process for handling the paper the students handed in, the desk was a disaster, and she lost my folder of forms within the first three days I was there. Luckily they were mixed in with some of the student’s work. I graded literally hundreds of papers during my four weeks and entered as many grades in the computer grade book. I taught nearly fourteen lessons, conducted a multi-station lab practicum, and brought in new technology. Overall, it was an extremely stressful month, but well worth it based on the experience I have gained.