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Student Teaching Placement: Northfield Junior and Senior High

Cooperating Teacher: Mrs. Milam

Week #11:

Day 47—Monday, April 16, 2012

Another great Monday ☺ Today was the start of week number 4 at the junior and senior high school. I have truly enjoyed having the opportunity to get to know my students and finding ways to relate to them. On Friday, I had the opportunity to listen to Melanie Parks, 2012 Teacher of the Year, speak. As a future teacher and current student teacher it was so inspiring to hear her story and how she values each and every student not for their skills and abilities but for who they are. I agree with everything she said. I want to make that kind of difference just as she has in her students with my students. Each student needs to know how valuable they are and needs to know that they are good enough. That is my job as the teacher, to reinforce this truth and show them how special they are by helping them spread their wings and fly.

Day 48—Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Called in Sick ☹ Not feeling well had a super bad stomach ache and very dizzy.

Day 49—Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Today was a great learning and growing day for me as a teacher. During my health lesson I was happy to have Mr. Walter come visit. I thank him for his feedback on my lessons and his input on different ways to make the lesson go more smoothly. Today I had a real struggle trying to get all the students to stay on task and be respectful while I was talking and while their other classmates presented. Thank you Mr. Walter for your guidance ☺ I will for sure be making some adjustments to this lesson the next time I teach, that way I can be sure that all the students benefit from the activities and understand the true meaning behind them.

Day 50—Thursday, April 19, 2012

I can honestly say that today was probably the most frustrating day for me so far as a student teacher. As much as I love these kids and having the opportunity to teach them it can be a real struggle at times to capture their attention and maintain their respect. Today the boys had a substitute teacher so most of the students felt like they could just act out showing no respect. I think I had to say something to 5 out of my 7 classes today. I even had to go out of my comfort zone those five classes and raise my voice. In my seventh period class just as we were going in at the end of the period to change one of the boys pushed another boy and said a few unkind words. So I addressed him about the issue after hearing the one boy's point-of-view. I just wanted to solve this issue in a common mature manner, so I asked him what happened instead of telling him what the

other boy had said (this way I could hear his side of the story too without jumping to conclusions). He then got very defensive and started yelling and walking away. I told him I just wanted to talk to him about the situation but he made a huge scene in front of the class and became very defensive with his words. So I did not think it would be appropriate or fair to the other students to just let it go. So I sent him to the principal's office and then immediately called down to make sure they knew he was coming. Then after the bell rang I went down to the office to clarify what happened and to let Mr. VanCleave know that I was sorry for turning this issue into his problem. We talked for a while and he helped me understand why this student acts out the way he does and I told him I understand and that my goal is to try and connect with the student in a positive way; however, I also needed to let him know that even as a student teacher I do hold him to the same level of expectations as his regular classroom teacher does. Mr. VanCleave said that he felt like I handled this situation in a positive way and he appreciated that I followed up on it rather than just leaving it all on him. My goal tomorrow is to pull this student aside and explain to him my expectations and to also reassure him that I am not just calling him out to pick on him but to help him get his actions in line. Today was a great learning and growing day for me and I know that as a teacher I will have days like this; but knowing the reasons why I am here and remembering why I do what I do will inspire me to find strength in these moments and provide me with the motivation and desire I need to overcome each struggle.

Day 51—Friday, April 20, 2012

Testing day ☺ My goal today will be to see how much my students have really learned thus far.