

Job Shadow Narrative

Growing up I always loved school, so the thought of becoming a teacher myself one day was always fascinating to me. As I got older I was always told that I was too young to know exactly what I wanted to do, that entering high school would open up my eyes to more career possibilities. I am now into my senior year in high school about to being my future and I am still planning on pursuing an education. When it came time for my job shadow, I knew exactly what teacher I wanted to observe. I asked Ms. Gonzalez, a math teacher at Kennedy Elementary to 5th and 6th graders, and she was very excited to know I was interested in shadowing her so she accepted.

As soon as I arrived I greeted her, “Good morning Ms. Gonzalez, I am here for my job shadow” I said. With a smile on her face, she asked me to take a seat at her desk while she got her class to begin working. One thing I noticed was how organized she ran her classroom; the kids knew they had a certain schedule to follow so they were working just minutes after their bell rang. They began by doing 7 minutes of multiplication flashcards then when the timer rang they knew it was time to update their learning goal sheets. I quietly sat there and observed how independent and responsible the class behaved in her class. Following the goal sheet completion, the students began their daily work which was either doing worksheets or taking 3v’s (the xend of topic test they take to show proficiency).

While they worked on their learning targets I walked around the classroom seeing what the learners were doing and talked to a few. One of the very first things I asked the students was what they were working on and their responses surprised me. Although they were all working on different topics one response they all gave me was, “We can move on to what we need to learn

next by reading our standards and searching up lessons on Google”. This amazed me because of how much they used educate and how well they understood the learning targets with self teaching. Ms. Gonzalez still walked around as well helping students that were struggling and giving small lessons but the learners were so independent. After a few class changes Ms. Gonzalez and I found time to do the interview and the responses she provided amazed me.

With only that short interview I was able to see how passionate Ms. Gonzalez was for teaching and how much she cared about each of her students. Although all of her responses were meaningful perhaps the one that stuck with me the most was when she said, “Not every learner is the same and in this field you will see situations you never imagined, but being there for them can go a long way”. Ms. Gonzalez then explained how it was harder to work with students at this age because it is when they need to be motivated to stay in school. “In high school if a student does not make an effort to learn it is normally because they have decided to not pursue an education after so they do not really care. But in elementary if a learner is behaving the same way it may be something deeper than that, which is where I come in to see how I can help them”, she said. That made me realize it was just that I wanted to do; help students realize their full potential and encourage them to work the hard.

Overall, the job shadow was very helpful by helping expand my knowledge of how teaching in elementary can really be. I always knew I loved helping others learn and this experience only made me more positive that teaching is what I want to do as my career. Even though I am still debating between what grade to teach, 1st or 5th, I am glad that I am sure of what I want to do for the rest of my life. I am thankful that our school requires all students to do this, it is very helpful.