November 6, 2017

Today was my first day on teaching practice. I don’t really know what to expect but I am going all in. I choose Pembroke Hall High School because of its proximity to my home. I arrived before school started and there were other student teachers gathered in the waiting area as well so I was not alone. I was going to see the vice principal for her to tell me what to do and where to go however, she was in a meeting that was taking up more time than she expected. She eventually came out and took us to the meeting room where we were to meet the heads of our department. Two other Miconians were in my department; I felt happy because I was not alone. The HOD was busy so I had to remain after all the others left and it took so long the VP took me to lounge area to wait. I chilled with the other two ladies and then the HOD came and I went to the library to meet my cooperating teacher Ms. White, who is the teacher librarian.

I started observing classes after lunch where I got to observe three classes that I found were on my timetable. I notice that the students took very long to settle down and the teacher had to be straightening up the class; others were eating and carrying on as if they did not see us. She started writing on the board and most students began to settle down. I did not wanted to interfere as I just wanted to see what happens in a regular classroom. I was not pleased at all and started to worry, is this is what all the classes will be like? I made it to the end of the day, thank God. I hope tomorrow will be a better day.

November 7, 2017

Today was day two of my internship at the Pembroke Hall High School. Yesterday I was nervous and worried but today I realize something. If we are not enthusiastic about our job it may seem more difficult than it actually is. I was early just as yesterday, something I intend to keep up with. I went to the lounge area to put down my belongings and then to the library to meet up with Ms. White. I went to all the classes she had today. Boy, was these nine grade students carefree; they never seem to want to come back after lunch. I did realize a trend that morning classes are generally better than the ones in the afternoon. One thing I observed that Ms. White does is go to the class and start writing on the board, this method I notes works for settling some classes but not all. I do not like the turning of back to the students for a long period of time, this can be a recipe for disaster. Right away, I started to think of ways I can avoid this. Some of the classes today were better than yesterday while others were worst. I realize that some students can be very rude and disruptive. I am hoping I do not encounter any that to challenge me. I just want this experience to be over with.

November 8, 2017

Today was my first day teaching. I stayed up all night preparing my lessons, I was mentally prepared. My classes today were one grade nine and one grade eight. Grade nine was my first class of the day right after they had form time. However, I was not able to take that class because this week the principal invited the parents to form time. This caused the meeting to go over schedule and run into the allotted class time. By the time the meeting was finish it was 10 minutes before lunch, which basically meant the students got an early lunch. I was very ready for my next class even though it was right after lunch. I didn’t want to lose a minute of the time I had. Therefore, I went to class early, I stated setting up and asked a couple boys to help me with the samples. The students saw me setting up and started settling down. I asked them to straighten their area and sent most of them for lunch. Right at the ring of the bell I was ready to begin the lesson. I asked them to sit with their gender because the introductory activity was boys against girls and method that seemed to work very well. The students were ready to learn and want to participate; it was a good class. I felt accomplished by the end of the day class and hoped that tomorrow would be as good as today.

November 9, 2017

Today I had two classes; grade nine and seven. I did not have to plan much for the grade 9 class because all the grades were on the same topic. All I did was change the assessment activity. 739 was a very receptive class, they were engaged right throughout the class. These students wanted to learn as they participated in the lesson. They were discipline and I did not have to stop the class frequently to correct bad behaving students. My main issue though was the outside environment; the students outside were constantly loud and rude towards each other. I had to focus all my attention on the class not to be tempted to go and run them off the corridor. Majority of the students finish the class activity on time, they all swamp me to mark their books, this is one of my favorite class so far.

The nine grade class on the other hand took forever to come back from their lunch break. When I arrived half the students were not present. The few students in the class started to leave when I arrived saying they are not members of the class. I was there waiting on the others to return from lunch, but they were nowhere to be found. I started teaching the few students that were there and then the others came after I finish the lesson. Ms. White had a graded activity she wanted me to give them, so I did. Time was now up and Ms. White wanted to collect the books and no one in the class was finish and she told them to take them to her once they were finish. This class was my least favorite and the students walking in late were distracting the others. I am definitely not looking for to meeting them again. This made me realize that all classes are very different and we cannot use the same approach with every student.

November 10, 2017

Today was the last day of my first week I am so happy I finally get to rest. I only had one class today and that made me happy. I found myself in a Professional learning community without even knowing what it was. It was lovely getting to know that many new people, we helped each other with lesson plans and just to get through the day; it was pleasing to be a part of this PLC.

I planned my lessons in advance nightly so that I don’t get pressured. I felt like I was getting a hang of this teaching thing. My lecturer had called me to ask if she could visit me the today but it was a bit too early, I felt. I told her Monday for 738 would be best to come and assess me.

The week ended well as 831 was not a bad class, it might have taken some time to settle down after lunch, but they eventually did. They settled and were ready to learn, they stayed engaged right through the class as best they could regardless out the outside noise and the bees flying around. I must say I have never seen this many bees in one place. Right throughout the week both staff and students were fighting bee day in, day out. Besides that, my eyes were opened to this “becoming a teacher thing”, it is a lot of work. I was happy that it was Friday, I finally get to go home and not plan a lesson for the night. I am looking forward to my assessment on Monday.

November 13, 2017

Today was my assessment, I am so happy it is over with and I can finally relax. Overall it was not as bad as I thought it would have been. The day was lovely. I was early, and I printed all my materials and was ready for the lecturer to come and assess me. The students of the first class were very helpful with assisting with the set up of the projector and laptop. They all were on edge to solve the puzzle for the engaging activity. They were engaging and participated in the lesson. It was very surprising as this was the class I observed that was very disruptive when Ms. White was in teaching. They were behaving themselves, I felt pleased. There was just one boy and I remembered him from day one observation, he was very disruptive and today he wanted to do the same thing. However, I asked him to sit close to the front where I can keep a close eye on him.

It was time for my assessment. I met the lecturer on my way in after lunch. I took her to the library and she sat and talked with my cooperating teacher. I had another student teacher assisting me with the set up of the materials and for support. The class was a good one overall. The students behaved themselves as far as I could see. Most if not all the students were engaged except for one boy the lecturer said was under the desk. I did my best, despite the outside environment being very loud and disruptive. I had prizes for the students that participated, and I asked the other student teacher to assist with the distribution of the prizes after the class and they swamp her, it was sad and funny at the same time. I feel I did well enough. The lecturer gave me some ideas and critiques that I took with me to the next classes. Tomorrow will be better as I am clear on what is expected of me.

November 15, 2017

Today, today, oh my gosh! I am so exhausted from today even though I know I did well and surprised myself actually. My cooperating teacher was not in today and she had asked me to take all her classes, which I did not have a problem with. I had about four or five classes today, I can’t even remember, they were one behind the other. I did well and I could tell the students appreciated my efforts base on their responses. I did not get to have the first class because the principal had the class before me and he took up the entire to sessions.

I was standing at the door for 15 minutes, he saw me, and he kept on teaching. I eventually just walked away and started preparing for the next class. 91 is official my favorite class. I was not timetabled for them but my gosh were they well-behaved. They were seated when I got there, and they participated and were so quiet. I never had to stop the class and speak to anyone about their behavior. I feel bad now, like I should have planned more for them, but Ms. White told me that they were rude and that I should just go in and give them the notes and work. That was not my experience, I love that class and wish all the students were like that.

The day went by quickly, as the realization of how each class must be uniquely planned for hit me. I also realized that morning classes get the best of the teacher’s energy, as it drew to the afternoon I started feeling less energetic. The classes after lunch require energy to get the students settled in time to execute the lesson. Today was pretty good. I did not crash under the pressure thankfully. Tomorrow is another day let’s see what will happen.

November 18, 2017

Yes! I am finish. I cannot believe this day has finally ended. I am so grateful this experience it allowed me to gain real insights of the field I am about to enter in real life. I tested my boundaries and build on my skills. Now I have determined if I was really cut out for this teaching thing or not. As far as my assessment says, I can manage. This has really prepared me for the coming big practice; now I am better able to match what is expected of me. I am anticipating January and hoping it will be better than this as it will not be my first time in a classroom.