

Benjamin Schmidt EDU 390 Diverse Practicum Journal / 20 April 2022**1. Century High School Advisory Period****Description of Activity:**

For one of my Diverse Practicum activities, most Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays I went to Century High School for my other education Practicum. During my time there, I spent an hour working in an advisory class with students who were far behind in their school work. Most of these students are freshmen who come from dysfunctional home environments and majority of them were Native American. During this hour, I assist the students with their homework and help them to understand concepts that they might be struggling with within the subject of Social Studies. It was somewhat difficult to get some of these students to ask for help or speak up, but has ultimately been beneficial for both of us. Towards the end of my experience helping these struggling students, I began to form stronger relationships with them and found that they started to trust me more when helping them complete their missing homework assignments.

Reflection and Analysis:

Each day I tried to welcome the students in the advisory period in a positive way. I think that I brought a new perspective into the classroom when I was there other than their normal teacher. I think that my presence added another option for the students to ask for help rather than turning to their normal social studies teacher for their questions. A difficulty that I experienced is getting the students to trust my knowledge on some of the course work that they have, but through time it has improved. I think moving forward, when I am in a similar classroom environment, I will try to relate to the students more through their hobbies and interests in order to gain their trust more fully.

2. Spirit of Life Soup Kitchen

Description of Activity:

Another place I served to fulfill my Diverse Practicum experience hours was at the Spirit of Spirit of Life Soup Kitchen. I spent about 4 hours at this location on a Tuesday morning working with a couple elderly ladies in the back of the parish to fill boxes with different food items and prayer cards. Some of the food items consisted of canned foods and soups, cereal, powdered milk, and condiments. I would help make boxes and then fill each one with these food items. I would also restock the shelves in the back with the food items and then carry the filled boxes out to the table where the people in need would collect them. I didn't experience a ton of face to face interactions with the people in need, but I talked to a few of them who came in. Most of them were low-income individuals or families who lived in the area. They were very grateful for the work that myself and the other volunteers were doing.

Reflection and Analysis:

I think that this experience was very fruitful for myself because it was serving people who were in my own community and near my home parish. I think that I played a significant role with my physical abilities to do some of the heavier lifting and restocking, due to the fact that the people that I was volunteering with were elderly people who would be exerting too much physical energy with some of the tasks that I was doing. This experience also made me more grateful for my own upbringing and showed myself how unfortunate some people's situations are in my own community. After serving at the Spirit of Life Soup Kitchen, I have realized that I would like to do it more frequently to give back to less fortunate people in my community.

3. St. Bernards Mission School in Fort Yates

Description of Activity:

The last activity I participated in during my EDU 390 Diverse Practicum experience was going to Fort Yates, ND with Dr. Taylor and some other classmates in the course to spend time with the students at the St. Bernard Mission School. Dr. Taylor gave some of us some significant historical background information on the area during the ride to Fort Yates, which I found to be very interesting! While we were there, I sat in a classroom of 6th - 8th grade Native American students who were listening to their teacher read them a novel. I found it very interesting to see the way the classroom was run and the amount of resources that these students had compared to schools I have observed in Bismarck. We also played a game called medic with the students while we were there, which is essentially dodgeball with an individual who could bring you back into the game after getting out. I thought that this activity was super fun and wholesome for both University of Mary and St. Bernard students.

Reflection and Analysis:

During this day trip to the St. Bernard Mission in Fort Yates, I realized a few very important things. One, being how unfortunate many people's situations are on the Native American Reservations in North Dakota. One of the students that we spent time with had some physical marks on his face that likely come from a dysfunctional home life. It can be easy to forget about these places in ND that are homes to people who hold such a high significance in North Dakota's history, and I hope more can be done to improve these Reservations. I also realized how important it is to have safe and positive learning environments in schools as St. Bernards does. Many of the students at that school most likely are safest and get a lot of their needs fulfilled during their time at the school, which is so important. I think that collectively, us

visiting these students allowed for them to have some positive and fun experiences! I hope to spend more time with these awesome students in the future.