Sample Fieldwork Journal Entry # 2
Pembroke High School

Sam Student
Monday and Tuesday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Total Hours: 12

May 3 – 4, 2012

My first two days of fieldwork have been interesting. I spent the first morning observing the students and the teacher as I sat quietly in the back of a first grade classroom. The teacher, Mrs. Schwartz, was my first grade teacher as well so it is strange to see the classroom from another perspective now, 11 years later. There are 22 students in her class and they are at varying levels of competency. I was happy to begin with observation; there will be plenty of time for me to assist and then even lead the class in lessons.

After morning snack Mrs. Schwartz and I had time to talk while the class was at art. She showed me the weekly schedule, but also the lessons plans for the day. I had no idea how much planning went into a class. She showed me some of the plans for the language arts class that she would teach after lunch. She asked if I wanted to help her explain the lesson but I said no. I figured that I would start participating on day two and give myself an entire day to observation.

I had some time so I stopped by the art classroom to see what the kids were doing. Students were using different shapes to connect together to form a recognizable object. I could tell what some of the students were trying to make, but for others I couldn’t even guess. I started to ask students to show me what they were making and this seemed to help me get comfortable with the students on a one to one basis. Day one was over very quickly. I couldn’t believe it was already 2:00. I was looking forward to what Tuesday would bring.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Schwartz asked me to work with a group of four boys in a reading circle. She taught the rest of the class while I read with the smaller group. They were all so inquisitive and they showed interest in anything that I had to say. After that Mrs. Schwartz lead a math lesson and I walked around the room and helped to direct students when Mrs. Schwartz asked me to. I didn’t expect Mrs. Schwartz to throw me into doing things with the kids, and I was a little nervous at first, but these kids wanted my help and so I was happy to try to help.

So far I don’t know how Mrs. Schwartz does this everyday, but I do see how rewarding it really can be.