

Field experiences reflection Journal

8/22/2024

I love my job as a parliamentarian for SGC, School Governance Council. It's been my 2nd year serving on the committee. It's a great learning experience for me. In the August meeting, we talked about the following topics: school enrollment, club fair, counseling department service, and county new policies. Northview's student enrollment stands at 1594, slightly higher than the predicted number of 1579. The Counseling Department processed over 1,000 schedule request forms during the first 10 days of school. Northview successfully hosted a club fair on August 21 with 90 clubs; every student is encouraged to participate actively. 75 seniors have expressed interest in mentoring 9th graders through the Big Little mentorship program. Parent and community representatives wanted to know more about how to improve our EOC testing results, especially on social studies.

8/21-8/30/2024

After meeting with club officers prior to the general meetings, all 4 clubs gathered for the first time this school year. My job as their advisor is to make sure all officers are held accountable for each of their responsibilities. Student leadership and advocacy is one of my focuses this year. National Chinese Honor Society will host a culture contest to attract more engagement from non-Chinese speakers. 21 Century Leaders will prepare students with better interview skills, social skills, as well as leadership skills. Simply Advice will offer student tips on how to study many courses including challenging ones like AP precalculus and AP physics. PolitPrep educates high schools on politics and the importance of civil engagement.

9/3/2024

I attended two instructional leadership meetings and one PBIS meeting that day. Northview wants to introduce technology, an app, to improve teaching. Teachers are not happy with the additional paperwork requirement. Change is difficult and how to get people on board is an art. PBIS meeting shared student behavior data for the first month of school, we have less tier-1 reports than expected. Most freshmen support the county's new phone policy; however, juniors and seniors tend to break the no phone during class rule. Teachers shared their ideas on how to improve attendance.

9/4/2024

Chinese teachers got together and talked about ways to teach in target language and use online resources to enrich our class and increase student engagement. We read several articles on how to teach in target language, this need comes from a few less experienced teachers, who are struggling to stay in Chinese during teaching. After we read and discussed these articles, we realized that there are many new ideas we can try with our students. My recommendation for them is to try one new idea at a time, it takes some time for both teachers and students to adapt to

new ways of teaching. Our textbook website got a major upgrade this year, I helped my fellow teachers set up their accounts correctly and go over how to use each function step by step.

9/11/2024

I shadowed my mentor on Curriculum Night. I was able to learn how to set up and organize the entire event. Three Assistant Principals were there to answer my questions. We usually pick a date that doesn't conflict with other nearby schools, also without major sports events. We involve student council and class council to pass out the flyer with the schedule and school map.

Communications were made at the beginning of school. As orientation is meant for meeting your teachers- curriculum night is more for what are we learning and how we can help your child do better at school. After the night, a short survey was sent to all teachers to get a picture of the turnout. For example, I had about 45 parents show up, most of them were freshmen and sophomore parents.

9/16/2024

Ms. Redmond worked in the clinic for six years before transitioning to the attendance office, where she is now in her fourth year as our attendance clerk. Her children graduated from Northview, and she was an active volunteer, even serving as PTO president. To say she knows the community well is an understatement. On a daily basis, she responds to 50-75 emails and manually processes 200 remote learning day requests. In addition, she is responsible for tracking both student and staff attendance.

Ms. Redmond believes that attendance is important. As school districts have stopped penalizing students for absences, she sees a growing challenge for teachers to help students who miss school frequently to catch up. I observed her handling numerous requests from both parents and students—it's not an easy job for anyone.

9/17&9/19/2024

We have two clinic assistants, Jean Apps and Rashmi Pandey, who rotate their shifts and work collaboratively as a team. Additionally, a cluster nurse coordinates with teachers and school leaders on important cases. This week, Jean is on vacation, so I spent time working closely with Rashmi. She shared that the clinic typically sees 25 to 30 student visits per day, although this number doubled during the Covid pandemic.

Teachers also frequently seek assistance at the clinic, where they can have their temperature checked or receive pain relief if needed. For students who have vomited or present with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher, parents or guardians are contacted to pick them up. However, a portion of students visit the clinic with the intent of avoiding tests or quizzes.

Throughout clinic hours, both teachers and students regularly come in for help.

9/18/2024

I sat down with our behavior specialist, Dr. Armes, today. She has been in education for 17 years. For the first eight years, she worked as a special education teacher at an elementary school before transitioning into her current role. For a few years, she split her time between two schools—one middle and one high school—a challenging experience that, as she expressed, wasn't as effective as the district had hoped. Now, in her third year at Northview, Dr. Armes works exclusively with us.

We have several programs in place to support students in need, including MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports), RTI (Response to Intervention), and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). As one of the top schools in Fulton, we have a relatively smaller number of students in the MTSS program—usually between 60 and 70—receiving services for attendance, behavior, mental health, and academic reasons. Extended blocks and free tutoring sessions are also available to support students. We use MAP data to screen students and follow up with PSAT data to identify those who need additional help.

Dr. Armes shared that her most challenging case at Northview involved a parent who refused services for their child, despite overwhelming evidence that the child was in urgent need. The parent also declined to share information about the child, making the situation even more difficult.

Dr. Armes is currently deciding whether to continue the administrative path or pursue a career in professional development.

9/19/2024

In September's SGC meeting, the focus was on school safety and the budget. The committee approved up to \$10,000 in teacher mini-grant expenditures. Parents and community members raised valid concerns regarding the safety of teachers and students in light of the recent school shooting in North Georgia. These discussions can get intense, as we all recognize the relevance of these questions. My principal addressed the situation with grace, guiding a discussion on Northview's safety measures. These include Centegix badges, two school police officers (and a trainee), two campus security associates, dual door-locking systems, and extensive camera coverage throughout the campus. We also emphasized the importance of students' continued role in monitoring and reporting anything concerning.

9/20 & 9/23

Darryl, our media specialist, wears many hats. Formerly a social studies teacher, he has served as Northview's media specialist for the past 12 years. During my time with him, students frequently approached him for help with books, databases, and software. In addition to his media center duties, Darryl also assists with coaching football. Carroll Wemple, our new librarian, has been with Fulton County for three years. She shared that, on a typical day, around 100 students visit

the media center in the morning, with about 180 students coming in during lunch. Managing student behavior is challenging for her as she is still getting to know the student body.

9/21

I shadowed my mentor, Ms. LeMetra Dismuke, on the night of the Homecoming Dance. Our main responsibility was to supervise over 1,000 students alongside two other school leaders and police officers. The event typically starts at 7:00 PM and ends at 11:00 PM. I took the later shift because I needed to put my 2-year-old to bed before heading back to school. I attended the homecoming game just before 7:00 PM, where our principal personally thanked me for my dedication to our school and community.

I spent time talking to student and parent volunteers. The student council helped organize the event and served food and beverages, while the PTO set up a coat-checking table and ensured that all personal belongings were secure. Students wandering around the campus after the dance ended were asked to contact their parents. We stayed until the last student was picked up.

9/24

Mr. Neuhaus, our principal, has been in education for 30 years. He initially studied to become an accountant at Clemson University. However, a conversation with his grandfather, a retired teacher, changed his path. He took a teaching job at an elementary school and later earned his master's in educational leadership. After 23 years as a school leader, this is his third year at Northview High School.

His priority is to make learning relevant for today's students, who are often distracted by cell phones, social media, and video games. He also emphasized the need for high school teachers to improve communication with parents, such as making phone calls to provide positive updates on their children's school life and academics. His most significant lesson as a school leader is the importance of having the right people on your team and ensuring they are happy — people who are willing to move the school forward.

9/25&9/30&10/1

The National Chinese Honor Society hosted our 2nd Mid-Autumn Art Contest for the entire student body. We began planning in August, making adjustments to guidelines and rubrics, designing new flyers, and creating social media posts to attract more entries. Student leaders took on various responsibilities, including contacting judges, coordinating schedules, releasing results, and displaying the incredible artwork for the community. Both our principal and the art department are strong supporters of this event; they helped judge the artwork and provided space to display it, recognizing the students' efforts.

My main goals for this event are to raise cultural awareness, give students a chance to practice leadership, and build a stronger community. With over 50% of our student body identifying as Asian, celebrating this cultural heritage at Northview feels essential.

9/30

Testing and testing training are unavoidable at any school. After completing face-to-face training, I also went through the online modules. However, I realized that these types of training sessions are often less effective, as teachers and staff are rarely enthusiastic about them. Making training less stressful and more engaging could help. My idea is to turn it into a game, similar to what we do with students: have group discussions, identify essential information, and then make it into a Kahoot game. The winner could receive a week of jean passes. I've noticed that teachers are often disengaged during training sessions and don't retain much, which leads to issues when they administer the tests independently. This disrupts the testing flow and can heighten students' anxiety if the supervising adult is uncertain about the process.

10/1

Last year, Northview implemented a 3-lunch schedule, but this year we returned to a 2-lunch schedule. The change was based on feedback from students on the Principal Advisory Committee. The school originally adopted the 3-lunch schedule to enhance student safety, as most incidents the previous year occurred during lunch. By shortening lunch periods and dividing students into three groups, the school hoped to reduce behavior issues. However, this setup resulted in less social time for students, and those in the 2nd lunch had to leave class in the middle of a lesson and return after a 30-minute break, which disrupted learning for both students and teachers.

Now that we are back to a 2-lunch schedule, our principal has also replaced Titan Time with an advisement block. As a result, most teachers now oversee a group of additional students, with the responsibility to check in on their academic, social, and mental well-being.

10/2

Our athletic director, Scott, has been in education for 26 years and was previously a social studies teacher. He also coached football for 10 years. Recognizing that football may not be as popular among our students and community, and that we may have fewer student talents in this area, he remains a strong supporter of student-athletes. He believes athletics teach students time management, character building, and friendship. Scott provides student-athletes with enrichment opportunities, connects them with coaches, and offers built-in help sessions during study hall.

Northview relies significantly on community coaches, and we typically have 18-19 sports teams, depending on the year. Our e-sports team is nationally ranked, though we don't currently have competitive cheerleading. There are ongoing discussions about adding ping pong, badminton,

and cricket to our sports lineup. Coach Scott is also committed to recognizing student-athletes—you'll notice large portraits of ten athletes displayed in the main entry hall.

10/3

Jasmine Jones, our school social worker, was recently named Professional of the Year. She mentioned that no school day is ever typical for her. When I asked how she builds trust and rapport with high school students, especially those who may be hesitant to seek help, her response was insightful. She shared that she treats each student as the expert in their own life, encouraging them to share what has worked for them in the past, and views herself as a partner in their process. If the student's solution doesn't work, Ms. Jones then offers her own suggestions for them to try. She noted that students are more willing to listen and try a new approach this way. I found this method brilliant—high school students, in particular, can be very resistant to change, and treating them as the experts in their own lives is both fair and effective.

When asked about avoiding burnout, Ms. Jones acknowledged that October is often a time when many teachers feel the weight of their responsibilities. She recommends taking a mental break after work and, most importantly, keeping things in perspective. Grades are less significant than making meaningful connections with students; students are more likely to try harder and perform better in classes where they feel connected to their teachers.

10/3

I did two things for my student leaders that day. First, I helped a student leader in crisis mode. As a club president, he was struggling due to a lack of organizational structure. His officers were neither responsible nor responsive, and some club members sent him updates after midnight, leading him to spend countless late hours updating files to share with me. The night before a major school-wide event, he sent me three different files, each with different names and information, leaving many members unaccounted for. People were understandably upset, and he struggled to see the issue.

This was a key learning opportunity for him. He needed to establish a structure, however small, set a few ground rules for communication between members and officers, and ensure clear deadlines. At a competitive school like Northview, many students aspire to be presidents of one or more clubs. However, true leadership takes practice, along with reflection on mistakes. I hope he learned from this experience, though it took him a good five hours to recognize the necessary changes due to his steadfast nature.

Additionally, I facilitated a leadership workshop where student leaders practiced writing professional emails and planned various service projects for the year.

10/8

This situation was completely unplanned. I was assigned as a testing room monitor and was prepared for it. The PSAT holds more weight now, as Fulton County has made it mandatory and

will use the results as benchmarks for high schools. I arrived early and waited in the testing room, but the proctoring teacher didn't show up. No one called or came to inform me of what to do next. It was 8:16 am, and the test was scheduled to start around that time. I instructed the students to stay seated and went to find an Assistant Principal at the other end of the hallway. She mentioned that everyone had been looking for me and told me to report to the media center immediately. Feeling confused, I quickly ran to the media center to pick up the testing materials.

Being the only adult in the room, I encountered both technical and trust issues. Some of the 11th graders were initially reluctant to follow instructions. I had to carefully guide them through each step, particularly the new testing policies. In the end, I was proud of myself for handling the situation well. All 25 students completed their tests without any violations, and I was grateful for the unexpected learning experience.

10/9

After school, I drove to Alpharetta High School to attend the SGC Cross-Council Meeting, hosted by two district officers. Over two hours, we met with 16 representatives from about a dozen schools and discussed the steps each council and school are taking to develop the 2024-2025 Strategic Action Plan. Through sharing and follow-up questions, it was eye-opening to see how other schools are prioritizing safety, operational efficiency, and ensuring impactful programming.

We discussed six main goals, but two stood out. I was impressed by Alpharetta High's focus on students who may not be on the traditional 4-year college path, as they strongly promote audio-video and culinary programs. Additionally, some schools shared that they're using charter dollars to buy materials for their PBIS reward systems based on what students actually want. This is something our school could consider, as our paper token system could benefit from digital updates. We all agreed on the need for schools to strengthen employee engagement across the board.

10/11

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to visit Wilson Creek Elementary School. Principal Stephanie Haga was the first to respond to my visit request and taught me a valuable life lesson that day. I've heard great things about Wilson Creek for the past four years and was eager to see what happens behind the scenes.

Our day started at 7:00 a.m. with a School Governance Council meeting facilitated by a parent volunteer. Ms. Haga listened attentively and whenever she spoke, she was thoughtful and deliberate. Afterwards, six of the nine school leaders present held their weekly leadership meeting, discussing student performance, Georgia Milestone testing results, and reviewing data by grade and student groups. The second hour focused on students needing additional support but not yet fully identified. Ms. Haga noted, 'Early intervention like this is what makes Wilson

Creek better.' I saw detailed documentation of students' academic and behavioral progress, each case assigned to a specific school leader for follow-up—a step often forgotten elsewhere.

Throughout the day, I observed Ms. Haga seamlessly balancing various responsibilities. Between meetings, she was called to address student behavior, yet still found time to sit down with me. I visited several classrooms across different grade levels during math and ELA lessons, observed lunch and recess, and spoke with the front desk staff and clinic assistant to gather more insights. Ms. Haga also helped me understand school budgeting, which added to my appreciation of Wilson Creek's strong culture and infrastructure. As Ms. Haga humbly put it, 'It's hard to balance school culture and accountability,' but she manages beautifully. She writes personal cards to staff members weekly and gives personalized stationery to everyone on their birthdays.

After dismissal, she stayed with the staff to sort donations for Hurricane Helene. When I left the building at 3:30 p.m., my mind was buzzing with everything I had experienced in a single day. Though I was physically exhausted, especially since my 2-year-old needed cuddles the night before, my spirit was lifted by meeting so many wonderful educators.

10/16

Chinese is one of the less-taught languages in American classrooms, and I want our program to have a greater impact. This is particularly challenging as other language programs, such as German and Latin, are shrinking, with even French and Spanish seeing declines. To address this, I initiated a Professional Learning Community (PLC) with all Chinese teachers so that we could align our efforts. Instead of holding the PLC at my high school, I suggested Webb Bridge Middle School, where Ms. He has built a strong Chinese program over the past 16 years.

As a teacher leader, my role isn't just to showcase my own work; it's also to recognize and celebrate the excellent work of other educators. We spent most of the day discussing ways to improve our instruction and make special events memorable for our students. I believe that being a voice for our community is key. Additionally, we need to do a better job documenting our special events, like International Night and Lunar New Year, so we can share them with the district and the broader community. Marketing and promoting our work are essential for the program's growth and visibility.

10/17

At the October SGC meeting, we focused on several key updates and approvals. Northview successfully completed the first nine weeks of school, with teachers working diligently to meet the board's grading policy. Our average SAT score increased by 5 points from last year, making us No. 3 in the state of Georgia and the top comprehensive high school statewide. Northview also achieved the highest graduation rate in Fulton County at 98.5% for the 2023-2024 school year.

The SGC approved 13 teacher mini-grants totaling \$8,440, which will benefit the entire student body, along with a \$1,000 budget to support Pathways Night. Ms. Tania Pope, Teacher of the Year and 3DE department chair, is working tirelessly to ensure the event's success on November 19. The SGC is also scheduled to vote on our Magnet status on December 5, 2024, and approved our Strategic Action Plan.

10/18

I visited Barnwell Elementary today, where Ms. Benning, the principal, shared her remarkable journey in education. With 27 years of experience, she began as a science teacher at North Springs High School in 1999. She later moved to Northview High School in 2007, where she became a department chair, and eventually became an Assistant Administrator (AA) in 2013. In 2015, she became an assistant principal at an elementary school in South Fulton, returned to Northview as an AP in 2018, and finally assumed her current role as Barnwell Elementary's principal four years later.

Ms. Benning has a warm rapport with the school community, seeming to know every child and sharing small conversations with every parent who visited. I spent the first hour shadowing the instructional support teacher, who works closely with kindergarten and third grade. A unique aspect at Barnwell is the "Wing Block"—a daily, 45-minute period for students receiving ESOL, EIP, TAG, or other services. They also launched a K-3 Reading Corps tutor program, sponsored by the county, to support early literacy. Last year, their focus was math; this year, it's on small group instruction.

I accompanied Ms. Benning for several TKES observations, where classrooms showcased rigorous, engaging instruction. To keep teachers motivated, Barnwell has initiatives like "Barnwell's Best" and "Are You in the Game?" where two grade levels plan staff meeting activities for the entire school four times a year.

10/18

I was also fortunate to sit down with our Zone 6 Superintendent, Mr. Brian Downey, during my visit. Formerly a principal at Northview for eight years, he shared his leadership philosophy: leading with a "soft hand" rather than strict direction, setting clear expectations, and creating a positive environment for effective team dynamics. He advised me to observe current school leaders to learn what styles resonate with me, prioritize keeping the right people happy, and step up for leadership opportunities. He introduced me to the new Gradebook Compliance Report, which was implemented after only 60% of teachers were found to meet the grading policy requirements, despite reminders. While some teachers initially resisted the tool, first-quarter compliance has improved significantly. As someone who tends to go above and beyond, I was surprised to learn that some colleagues were not meeting these basic standards, despite frequent reminders.

10/22

I visited River Trail Middle School today, and I knew my day would be productive when Mr. Pinnock handed me my agenda for the day. Upon my arrival, I attended a leadership meeting and was introduced to the team. During the meeting, they shared their six goals for the school year, covering all aspects of the Fulton County Strategic Plan. The leaders took turns sharing updates.

I shadowed Mr. Crotsley, the 7th-grade AP, during a post-observation conference with one of the new teachers. I also witnessed him handle behavioral issues with three middle school boys. My next hour was with Dr. Kidd, the 8th-grade AP, who became a school leader in 2022. Before that, he was a social studies teacher at River Trail. He shared that 60-70% of the teachers in the 8th grade have left over the past four years, and he is working to bring about change. First, he created a handbook for procedures to send a unified message.

I also had the opportunity to sit down with the AA and the 6th-grade AP, get to know the two front desk clerks. Lunch duty and dismissal duty with Mr. Pinnock was new to me. He was patient in explaining the rationale behind every procedure.

When I asked what he values most in teachers who come through his door, he expressed the importance of understanding middle school students, taking initiative, being smart and kind, and bringing new ideas. His advice to me was to try to understand all parts of the school, including student behavior, scheduling, and recruiting.

10/23

I planned our first fundraising event after several meetings discussing different ways to raise funds. The student leaders at the National Chinese Honor Society decided to create lunchtime gift pouches filled with a variety of Asian snacks. We estimated the cost of making these pouches and submitted the paperwork to the school bookkeeper, which was later approved by the principal.

Now it's time to coordinate a schedule for club members to volunteer. They can help assemble the pouches, promote the event, or sell the pouches on the day of the fundraiser. We also decided to include a dragon dance performance for International Night. After conducting some research, we chose to purchase an 18-meter-long dragon from a vendor in China. Fortunately, this was approved by the principal, and we have placed the order. Hopefully, it arrives early enough for us to practice. Last year, we tried to borrow a dragon from a parent, but it didn't work out well due to its size and the lack of practice.

10/25

We invited a well-known attorney based in Atlanta to speak with our students about career options in the legal field and how to prepare for law school while still in high school. During the visit, the attorney shared valuable insights about the different paths within the legal profession, including public interest law, corporate law, criminal law, and more.

In addition to discussing the various specialties, the attorney provided practical advice on academic preparation, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong grades, developing critical thinking skills, and honing writing abilities. He also highlighted the value of extracurricular activities, such as debate club, mock trial, or volunteering at local legal aid organizations, which can help students gain relevant experience and build a strong resume for law school applications.

The attorney encouraged students to seek out internships and mentorship opportunities during their high school years, stressing that real-world experience can be instrumental in shaping their understanding of the law and the legal system. He answered students' questions about the law school admission process, including the significance of standardized tests like the LSAT and the importance of personal statements in showcasing their unique experiences and motivations.

To further engage the students, we organized a Q&A session where they could ask about the challenges and rewards of a legal career. The attorney shared personal anecdotes from his own journey, illustrating both the hurdles he faced and the satisfaction that comes from advocating for justice and helping clients navigate complex legal issues.

Overall, this visit provided our students with a comprehensive overview of what it takes to pursue a career in law and inspired them to start planning their futures early.

10/30; 11/6; 11/15; 11/18; 11/19

Our 3DE Chair, Ms. Pope, was recently voted Teacher of the Year for 2024. With 21 years of experience in education, she spent seven of those years teaching in South Africa before joining Autrey Mill Middle School. 3DE is Northview's magnet program, focused on developing essential skills for college, such as speaking, communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Ms. Pope has observed that many young professionals struggle with communication and professionalism, which makes this program especially relevant.

We spent a few hours planning for Pathway Night, including designing flyers and translating them into different languages to ensure community members have access to the information they need. During our visit to River Trail Middle School, we observed the reactions of 8th graders and brainstormed ways to engage them more effectively next year. Additionally, we worked on designing feedback forms for parents and students to complete on the night of 11/19. These forms will help us understand how attendees received the information and identify areas for improvement to enhance their experience next year.

For the event's first year, the turnout was impressive, with hundreds of 9th- and 10th-grade students and their parents in attendance. However, two key takeaways emerged. First, we need to incorporate more engaging activities, such as small games with prizes or a raffle, to maintain interest throughout the night. Second, we should focus more on promoting the event through

social media platforms like Instagram. Much of our marketing budget was spent on newspaper ads, which didn't seem to yield the best results.

10/31; 11/4; 11/5

Ms. Sakeya Brown, the IST (Instructional Support Teacher), oversees the special education program at Northview, where she has worked for six of her 17 years in education. The program serves 102 students, and Ms. Brown noted that the most challenging part of her job is managing extensive paperwork and ensuring compliance. Disagreements can sometimes arise with parents over a student's IEP goals, particularly when parents may not fully understand the level of support their child needs to succeed in a general education setting. At the high school level, some parents may push for Advanced Placement or Honors classes, even if their child may not yet be ready for such a placement.

Ms. Brown organizes transition meetings for incoming 9th graders from January to March to help prepare students and their families for high school. Currently, each case manager oversees 9 to 13 students. When collaboration is strong between general education teachers, special education staff, and families, students gradually build confidence, taking more general education classes and requiring less support as they advance. One of the best practices for a successful special education program is open communication with parents. At Northview, case managers provide weekly updates to help families understand how to best support their children at home.

I attended my first annual IEP meeting, and it was an eye-opening experience. What stood out to me was the level of detail—nothing was overlooked. The family expressed immense gratitude for the services they are receiving and took pride in the small but meaningful progress their child is making. It truly put things into perspective for me.

On 11/15, I spent the entire day with the special education department. We met as a group, attended the IEP meeting, shared a team lunch, and held a productive PLC session afterward. The department has a warm and laid-back atmosphere that I really appreciated. They are hosting another Thanksgiving potluck on 11/20, and I'm very excited to join them.

11/13

A day as a high school AP means not a second of downtime. On 11/13, I had the opportunity to shadow my mentor for the entire day, and it was quite a learning experience. Ms. Dismuke is incredibly organized and had her day planned out. However, there were numerous interruptions throughout, and by the end, student discipline consumed most of her time.

She not only managed the students in her own caseload but also stepped in to assist other assistant principals when needed. For example, when a student was suspected of being under the influence, her AP conducted a search with a witness present. This included going through the student's backpack, asking her to empty her pockets, and removing her shoes. Interestingly, police officers can only conduct searches based on probable cause, which contrasts with the

authority school officials have under reasonable suspicion—something many people misunderstand.

I am learning new things every day during my field experience, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to connect with everyone in the building and hear their stories. This experience pushes me to keep growing and reflecting on my daily practices.