

During the pandemic and having time to reflect on my life I knew that I wanted to back to school and finish my bachelor's degree and that I wanted to go into teaching in order to work in a field that was more fulfilling. Having the opportunity to volunteer with Cielo with their foodbank reminded me that giving the community support is so important in order for us to grow as a person. Helping our communities and non-profits not only is satisfying for those who help but can make it easier for the non-profits to continue to help others.

I observed at L.P. brown Elementary as a Para educator. I was hired to assist Ms. O'Neill in her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class, which was known for being the rowdiest class in the whole school. This group of students had gone through 4 teachers that year, and it was observingly hard on them to have gone through so many changes in the school year. When I started, I thought I was going to go through training but was actually just "thrown in with the wolves" and I say this with a warm heart because it allowed me to understand and challenge myself more. I had the opportunity to lead small groups with students that needed extra assistance and this was probably my favorite part as being a Para educator because I got to see how different students learn. When I would help them and it wasn't clear what needed to be done I would try a different approach. When I would go home and reflect on how the day went I would think of ways I could grab their attention and help them focus more.

I'm excited to be applying for the Mit program because I know I will be good fit. I am still to this thinking about the students that I met and how I could become an inspiring teacher.