

- **How has your time volunteering and observing informed your decision to be a teacher?**

My time spent teaching over the last 5 years has really opened my eyes in many ways to be a teacher. I'm currently a teacher at Olympia High School and it has been a great experience with a few challenges along the way. One of those challenges would be the lack of diversity and teachers and students. I guess I wouldn't necessarily call it a challenge as much as just different. I feel like the kids of color come up to me a lot over the last 4 years just to talk, be around me, or ask questions to do with race. I didn't really think how important being a teacher of color was until I looked back on my own life and how many teachers of color I have had over the years.

Another interesting thing I have learned is that it is important to have structure in your class and the earlier you put this in place the better. Students will take advantage of you if you don't. Also making sure you are on time and setting a really good example for the youth you are teaching. Having a knowledge of the subject is also important.

Another thing is you don't understand how alone you are thought out the day as a teacher. Your counterparts have their own classes and students to work with so little or no time to chit chat during the day. Over the last 4 years it has also been interesting how much turnover it has been with administration and getting use to different management styles is another thing I have noticed over the years as a teacher. I love teaching and working with the students. I have always wanted to be a teacher since I was a student in high school.

In conclusion, I would say my time up to this point at Olympia High School has been a good one and I'm excited to continue teaching here!