

Ever since I enrolled at Evergreen, I have taken multiple volunteer opportunities to further educate myself in the field of teaching I hope to make a career in. The volunteer programs I have participated in include time spent in a math classroom at Olympia High School and at the Puget Sound Estuarium. Each of these programs have helped me to refine the type of teaching style I want to use as well as refining certain teaching skills that will be useful throughout my career.

When I volunteered at the Olympia High School, I observed and assisted in Algebra 1 and 2. I learned that though I may understand the material, articulating it in many ways can be challenging. I tried to help them understand the material in a way they could better understand according to their needs. I know this skill will be useful in the classroom for any student that needs any extra explanation or demonstration in addition to my initial lesson plan. During my time at Olympia high school, I learned that it takes more than your own understanding of a subject to teach material.

Since the beginning of Summer 2022 I have been volunteering at the Puget Sound Estuarium for the K-12 education group. This program involves interacting with large groups of children in efforts to educate them about the estuary ecosystem in an interactive way that piques their interest. This program has taught me how to keep the attention of large groups of children to give them instruction on the learning task at hand, and to supervise them with an educator's observation to make sure they are learning while staying safe at the same time. These skills will be essential as a teacher in the classroom with multiple groups of children so that I am able to maintain instructional control and they will learn from my instruction in a proactive way.

As a volunteer in a high school math classroom and in a Summer education program for K-12 students I feel that I have learned a great deal about what it is like to teach young people.

Keeping a large group of children focused on a block of instruction and supervising them while they carry it out can be difficult, but necessary as a teacher. Everyone learns a little differently and it will be inevitable that some students will need a little more focus and support for them to learn the material. There is no doubt in my mind that I still have much to learn to become a teacher, but I know I am ready for it.