25th March 2025

Ever since I was young, I knew that I wanted to help people. Mostly, this is due to how difficult my life has been, my family has always been poor and always needed help to keep us fed and clothed. This even early on ingrained in me a sense of purpose that I owed the world a piece of myself in return for how much I took from it, it was only in my adulthood that I understood that instead of the world deserving a piece of myself it needed my help, it needed me to perpetuate the cycle of care that uplifted me from poverty. I chose in high school that I wanted to become a teacher, that my service to people would be as the figure that helped me most in school and gave me the best odds at having a normal life apart from constant strife. I dedicated most of my teenage years preparing myself for the task, even spending two years volunteering at a youth center to understand even a fraction of the task being a teacher would be. In college, I took courses that would aid in this goal, developmental psychology classes and classes focused on leadership and education with other classes that filled out my knowledge of a specific area that I wanted to teach and took some credits for developing some skills for learning a second language. To fulfill my volunteer requirement, I sought out a school that not only had a decent reputation concerning it's history department, but also embodied how I felt education should be structured around helping students as well as teaching them. I ended up receiving an offer to volunteer at NOVA Middle School, a private school located in Olympia which seemed to encapsulate everything I was hoping to observe, not only was it a smaller school with a large retinue of teachers relative to the body of students, it also had a history program more mindully focused on student led learning guided by a standardized curriculum, which seemed to perfectly marry the ideal I hoped for as well as the reality. I mostly observed classrooms while occasionally helping both students and teachers alike and through my observations I learned both what the experience was like from the student perspective and the teacher's intentions. This process inspired me to learn more of the planning process that went on behind the scenes amongst teachers to help coordinate student learning to better prepare me for situations in the future such as this in the future. This is all to say that my time spent volunteering in the has only reinforced my desire to teach and has expanded my possibilities for future careers as a background in teaching is broadly applicable to a variety of places and the prospect of being learned in history only helps to expand this list. My brief stint in learning another language has also bestowed the revelation that I enjoy learning new languages as well, and this I could also teach should my employers be willing.