

Dear mentor teacher,

My name is Chloe Schmidt and I am a student currently completing my second year in the Elementary Education Program at the University of Victoria. I want to thank you for the opportunity to become apart your classroom, and your willingness to support my individual growth and learning over the course of my first practicum.

To tell you a bit about myself, including relevant skills and experience, this past year I took on a tutoring role, helping a girl in grade eight develop an improved comprehension of math and a more positive association with it. Additionally, I have fond memories from this summer acting as a nanny to two boys aged seven and eight, where I was able to practice assertiveness, patience, and problem-solving, as well as and perhaps most importantly, have fun.

I graduated high school with a Dual Dogwood Diploma, and thus have a relatively high comfort level when it comes to communicating in French. Although I am not sure that the preceding is something I want to pursue, I would welcome any occasion allowing me to explore and seek out a greater understanding of the demands that teaching in each language (French and English) would entail. In fact, in my first semester, I am grateful to have been able to complete weekly visits in a grade four/five split French Immersion class. Here, I became familiar with different management styles, student dynamics, and how to best support the diverse needs or spectrum of abilities present in a split classroom. Although my primary purpose was observation, the in-person, hands-on element was instrumental in my understanding of how the pedagogical approaches emphasized in my more theory-based courses could actually take form. It was eye-opening for me to see how preparation for future concepts took its place in the intermediate curriculum. For example, I made note of how encouraging the discovery of patterns in a math lesson now would ready children for algebra later on. I became involved through circulating and providing one-on-one assistance to anyone that was in need of clarification. Additionally, I lead small-group discussions and activities, which although small steps, played a major role in building my confidence. I look forward to applying and furthering this knowledge.

Throughout my time at your school, I hope to gain a better grasp of the factors that optimize successful student engagement (i.e. the daily scheduling/timing of specific subjects, fulfillment of social/emotional needs, etc.) and discover how to create a supportive and productive community. I truly value and believe in the importance of designing a safe and educational environment where children can reach their full potentials by sharing ideas and taking risks. Designing lessons and becoming more comfortable with instructing math and science are also among my goals.

I am excited and eager to get to know you and your students. Warm regards,

Chloe Schmidt