

### November 21st 2022

For my first day of placement, I audited a French teachers class as my AT was out for the day. This allowed me to gain insight on the French program at the school and where the students are at in their learning in terms of proficiency and fluency. This also gave me insight as to how french-immersion courses are ran in English schools as I haven't had the opportunity to teach this subject yet. The courses I audited were Core French and Ancient Civilizations (French-Immersion) ranging from grades 9-11. As the student teacher, I watched each lesson while taking notes of teaching methods and material being taught, and sat in on various french speaking presentations while helping with classroom management. This allowed me to gain insight into lesson planning within these courses as well as assessment strategies.

### November 22nd 2022

During my first day with my AT, we began by establishing my comfort level with teaching specific grades and what courses I will start teaching. Throughout the day I observed 3 courses in which I will be teaching this semester, these include Careers (French-Immersion), Core French grade 11/12, and grade 9 French-Immersion. I decided to choose Careers as this will best serve me in the future seeing as I will probably end up having to teach this course whether it be in French or English and will provide me with resources if I ever end up teaching the subject. Today allowed me to examine the ways in which my teacher engages with the students and the language used to incorporate french language into the course. Ways in which French speaking is encouraged is by keeping a point system in which students are rewarded for consistently practicing French by giving them the opportunity to drop their worst grade if successful. One of the biggest differences I noticed from being with my AT as opposed to the teacher I examined yesterday were the classroom management skills implied. I felt that my AT had good classroom management skills as she did things such as keep the point system to hold students accountable and established a relationship with the students in which they acknowledge her authority more. I think that the point system is a good way of motivating students as well as assuring productivity in the classroom. I also found that the grade 11/12 students were much more respectful and easy to manage as they are University courses and the students take the material more seriously, as well as needed less encouragement to speak French in class. Upon observing the classes, I felt my AT did a good job at incorporating all components of language learning into lessons (Listening, Speaking, Writing) and did this in a way that was engaging to the students, i.e. having them listen to a podcast, discuss with their classmates, and write responses. Overall this observation day was very practical as it allowed me to see into what goes into lesson planning and teaching in a class outside of music, and gave me a more broad understanding of education outside the music classroom.

### November 23rd 2022

In placement today I focused on lesson planning for the course I am teaching tomorrow. Given as there were pacing guides for the unit prepared in advance, I based my lesson off of previous worksheets my teacher used in past years. I centered my lesson around these worksheets as they're required materials for the course and simply translated them to french to meet the expectations of the french immersion aspect of the course. In

planning for my lesson, I observed more carefully the way in which she scaffolded the class to have an idea as to what to do. She typically starts the lesson with an introduction which I will do using a short video and by leading discussion regarding the topic of stress, then by giving students a worksheet and taking it up towards the end of the class. I think this is a good way of running a french immersion class as it allows them to practice thinking, speaking, and writing in french while learning the material. Although this isn't a core french class, I find that the teacher often corrects grammar and ensures students are always communicating in french, something I will look out for and make sure to observe when practise teaching. In making my lesson plan, I tried to make learning relevant to them by printing out a stress test for them to take at the beginning of the lesson. Given that this is a lesson on how to manage stress, I think this is good as it will allow them to see how stress affects them based on their score and realize the importance of the topic rather than just teaching it for the sake of teaching it. One of the biggest differences I've noticed between teaching music and any other subject is the amount of individual work the students do. In my music placements, I found myself speaking and engaging with the students for the whole 75 minutes, whereas in French it's very much student led and they require little direction, then work independently for the whole period.

### November 24th 2022

During my practicum today I was in charge of teaching first period careers (French Immersion). As the students had presentations for the first portion of the class, I only got to do the first bit of my lesson, saving the rest for tomorrow. This allowed me to get slowly introduced to teaching the class and gave me an opportunity to see how the students respond to me and ways I will tweak my lesson for tomorrow based on what I noticed. I started my stress lesson asking students to define it in their own words, things that stress them out, and ways they cope with it. I then gave them the stress test and told them I would pick up tomorrow by reviewing that and continuing the lesson (discussions, worksheets, video, etc.). Something that I will definitely add after reading your reply is stress and relaxation exercises, I thought about this originally when planning my lesson but wasn't sure if it was appropriate to include or relevant but I think it is something that will benefit them and I'll be more comfortable doing after having taught them once already. Some strategies I used during my lesson were to include extensive discussion and allowing students to lead the class as this is a personal subject to every student and easy to relate to and talk about. Luckily, the students were all very cooperative and engaged in my lesson so all the discussions went very smoothly and as planned. Other strategies I used were, rather than reading from the worksheets that contained the information, I had students take turns reading out loud, one, to take pressure off of myself, and to allow students to practice their French while learning the material. Something I noticed that was a success during my lesson was that every student was attentive and very engaged in the lesson which made me feel very accomplished. Overall, I think that the lesson went very well and as planned and just after one day I understand a lot better what is expected from me in terms of workload and preparation for courses and will be set up for success in my future lessons.

### November 25th 2022

Today in placement, I spent the whole first period finishing my lesson from yesterday after adding stuff to it last night to ensure it lasted the whole period. The main thing I noticed

in terms of classroom management is how much the students fluctuate from day to day. Yesterday I felt as though they were way more attentive and participated way more, whereas today, perhaps because it was Friday, they seemed distracted and unwilling to work. In hopes to try and build relationships with the students and try to get to know them better, while doing attendance, I added a question and asked them to tell me what they want to do in the future as this is a careers course and the students seemed to be excited to talk about that. Because many students came in late due to a school activity, it was hard to keep everyone on the same page as I had to start teaching for the students that were there, and once the other students returned they were lost and didn't know what we were supposed to be doing etc. Most of the period was spent with the students filling out their worksheets and asking questions, one of which I told them they can continue working on on Monday as we ran out of time. Overall I think teaching for the full period was a lot harder not in terms of time management but simply in terms of keeping students engaged for 75 minutes. During 3rd period, I audited an instrumental music class in which the students presented a music journal project and worked on various aspects of music theory. It was interesting to see the difference in vibe and energy going from a French class to a music class. Obviously with music being a 'fun class' students in that class were a lot more energetic and easily distracted and felt more free to do whatever they wanted. This made it hard for the teacher to manage the classroom and get a lot of the lesson in as there were constantly distractions, whether it was students playing while he was talking or getting up during presentations etc. I definitely found that music programs vary a lot from school to school, I remember at Leamington the students were very engaged and took the course seriously which was very inspiring to me, however I felt as though these students saw the course as free time and was sad to see. Overall this week has been a great learning experience and I feel very accomplished by it seeing as though I didn't think I would be teaching til next week and have already taught various classes. Over the weekend and during my prep I will be continuing to make lessons for the careers course and start to lesson plan for grade 9 French which I will start teaching on Tuesday.

November 28th 2022

Today in placement, I taught the careers class which I taught last week and continued the lesson on stress which then led into the mental health unit of the course. Before beginning the lesson, I took the time to do breathing exercises for anxiety with the students which I found a good video for as well as introduced them to a book that I use to manage stress and regulate my mental health called the 5 minute journal. I ripped out pages from the book and gave one to each student and took 5 minutes to fill it out. The questions are very personal and open and aim to create a positive mindset, i.e. list 3 of your goals for the day; list 3 things you're grateful for, etc. While they were doing this I went around the room to make sure students were filling it out as I wanted to ensure they were actually trying it rather than thinking it was just busy work as I genuinely believe it's a very helpful and positive thing to do. After finishing the worksheet from Friday, students were introduced to the next unit, for this, I showed them a Ted Talk about mental health in schools. With only a couple minutes left the students started the assignment that went with this in which they had to log onto an app called MyBlueprint and do research and answer questions regarding mental health. I told the students I will give them time at the beginning of class tomorrow and will pick them up. The rest of the day was spent making lesson plans to set myself up for the week and carefully observing the grade 9 French class as I will be teaching them tomorrow.

November 29th 2022

Today in placement, I continued my lesson with careers and started teaching a new course. As there was a virtual presentation during my careers class the time I spent teaching was a lot less than usual, because of this I was able to fill most of the course by having the students finish their work from yesterday which I had them hand in at the end of the class. During 3rd period I taught grade 9 french immersion which I was nervous about as french grammar has never been my strong suit, however I really enjoyed teaching this class. Ways in which I engaged the students was by playing a gameshow which I found on an educational website which tested the students' knowledge on conjugating verbs. I wasn't sure if this would be too childish or easy but the students honestly loved it and were very engaged the whole time. Next, I did various exercises on the board in which I wrote sentences using the wrong verb tense and students had to find the errors and correct them. The rest of the class was spent having the students work on their podcast assignment which is due friday, and I spent the time they took working circulating the classroom and writing a test that they will take next monday. Tomorrow I am planning on giving them a similar worksheet which I will collect and correct to get a better idea of where they're at and base the test off of that as I found many of my examples today were quite hard for them. Overall I think my placement is going very well and have learnt more about lesson planning and time management in the past couple days than I ever have before which I am grateful for.

November 30th 2022

Today in placement, I gently started the career choosing aspect of the careers course as I plan to have them create and present their presentations next week demonstrating their future goals and how they are going to achieve them. The students worked on a handout in which they had to pick a field, pick a specific job within that field, and determining their compatibility with the job. This was the first step in the unit as students will use the job they chose to base their presentation off of. In terms of class management for this class, I feel as though the students are very independent and don't require a lot of attention and most of this course is spent working on worksheets. Something I find difficult is relating each lesson to one another as the documents my teacher provided me with were in random order and I feel unsure as to what to do next sometimes. Now that I am starting the career project I think the learning will mostly be centered around that and I should be able to plan for the rest of my practicum quite easily. Since less than half the class was there in grade 9 french, my teacher proposed I give the students the whole period to work on their assignment which is due friday. Some of the feedback I have gotten include having discussions with my AT where she asks me what I think is going good and what I can improve on. The one thing she said I can improve on is being more strict with the students as I tend to be lenient when students check their phones quickly or talk to their friends. This is something I will try to improve upon in the next couple weeks as I continue my placement. Other than that she said that my lesson planning and presence in the classroom are good which was reassuring to hear.

December 30th 2022

Today in placement I talked about motivation and studying habits with my career class. Most of this was done through discussion, asking students how they are intrinsically and extrinsically motivated in life after showing them various examples and videos relating to it. This opened up good discussion which led to the section of the unit that talks about studying. I talked about ways in which we can become intrinsically motivated while studying, that is ways to make learning meaningful and fun and not just to achieve a good grade. The students then worked on a worksheet in which they had to make a study plan and list ways in which they can stay motivated to study. I felt as though the students were engaged in this lesson as it was relevant to them, making classroom managing easier as every student was attentive and no one was talking or on their phones. I also chose very engaging videos so that students didn't get bored and become distracted. For the individual work section of the class, I tried to make sure to assign more work to students that were done while waiting for the other as I noticed when I don't do this students start talking which leads to the period being unproductive and them being harder to control. This was successful as the students were completely silent the whole class and everyone completed and handed in the work by the bell. In my grade 9 french class, they had to record their podcast assignment. This was difficult in terms of class management as many students went in the hallway to record. I thought this would be a better idea so they could be spread out however the students in the hallway were very loud and a lot were very distracted and didn't finish. Had I known the students before I would have know which ones are capable of working independently in the hallway however many of the weaker students were in the hallways and didn't work very well and were disrupting other classes. Ways I managed this were simply by staying by their side and letting them know that they will be sent back in the class to work if they kept being loud which worked for the most part. During my prep I continued lesson planning for next week and creating presentations to show my class.

December 9th 2022

Today during placement, my careers class kept working on their assignment which I had to modify as I noticed that yesterday they were still working on it at the end of the period and most wouldn't have been done, so I gave them today and the weekend to work on it to ensure they have enough time and not allow them to ask for an extension as that's what they tend to do in this course. I think that the classroom management is getting easier and easier in this course as I get to know the students better and gain their respect and I can tell they are more engaged in the work now as they constantly come up to me to ask questions throughout the period whereas before I felt like they avoided me and only went to the teacher. In my grade 9 class, the classroom management is much more difficult as they are a much larger class and in grade 9. Personally I don't find whispering to partners when doing individual work to be distracting as the teacher, however once one group starts talking they all do and it becomes unnecessarily loud. Ways I manage this are simply by frequently giving them directives to get back on task or by telling them that i'm picking up the work at the end of the period regardless of what done. Although this doesn't work for all of them and some students still choose to not work, I think failing in this sense will teach them to become better students and isn't necessarily a punishment. I especially believe this because all the students that talk during class and never work are the same ones that did very poorly on the test. Apart from that aspect of it, teaching has been going good and my lesson plans have been staying a week in advance giving me time to prep all the materials and worksheets I need for the class making it easier to teach confidently and effectively.