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Observation Report

During my time at St. Nicholas Catholic School I learned a lot. My last field experience

placement was at a very established school with resources, assistant teachers, and the students were all at the same level intellectually. At St. Nicholas it was pretty much the opposite. There were about 15 or less students in each classroom, the school was very old and charming and the teachers looked so stressed trying to teach their students with the limited resources they had.

In the classroom some students were super outgoing and talkative where the other half were shy but very still very smart. Some strengths I noticed was the tight community at this school. The second graders knew the fifth graders because they were related or are friends. The students seemed really happy and close to their teacher, Ms. Hilleary, there was a positive learning environment. I thought it was great that when Ms. Hilleary gave them opportunities to voice their opinions and express themselves, the students took advantage of it. Some weaknesses I noticed was the lack of classroom management. Students would talk so much that the teacher could hardly teach. The teacher would facilitate a rule of no talking but when they would share their answer in class discussion there was no cut off. Students would talk about their home life for ten minutes, the teacher would talk about her personal life, and other students would want to share. There wasn't a balance between students expressing themselves and doing their work.

Some students were often late and absent so there would be a lot of catching up. When students would return they were very efficient with their work and I would help them. Overall the class was great and I enjoyed the students. The classroom management was shaky.