

# A middle school week



*(Big Nate ©[Lincoln Peirce](#))*

This past week I could be found in a middle school every day. In fact, I was in one school for three days for two teachers. I started the week in near-city district at the school that was closed for a few days a couple of weeks ago due to swine H1N1 flu. Yes, I'm still fine, thanks for wondering ☐ .. The class was IT, though in actuality he only had four classes (I believe I mentioned before that at this school 6th grade doesn't take this class). To make up for it, he had a tutorial, something usually only the core teachers have, and lunch detention. It is my understanding that under normal circumstances lunch detention has only ten or less students. Monday had 23 ☐ .. Most didn't have passes though as was supposedly required. Huh. So as typical in this class which doesn't have an assistant like in hometown district, students didn't work on IT projects. Instead, students had to read a packet then do three worksheets based on it. Yeah, kind of a blah day for the kids. The packet only covered about half the chapter that the worksheets had questions on I discovered later in the day. So naturally I informed the students of this... hey, are you kidding?? Like they needed an excuse to be lazy and not do it. "Hey, I didn't find the answer in two seconds so it must be in the half I didn't get to read so I'll just skip the question." My lips were sealed about this little discovery ☐ ..

Tuesday and Wednesday I subbed for sixth-grade math. Not that I taught any, nope. Still in near-city district, I was at their other middle school and the teacher left plans just having students work on problems out of their books. This is the sort of assignment in which one hears about subs falling asleep... They were generally well-behaved, at least in my

book. The resource teacher however, who came in for a couple of periods, didn't think so as she was very...not friendly. My highlights were going over the warmups (not listed in the plans, but I did it anyway just to have something to do) in each of the math classes, but for her one social studies class I just suffered in silence as I babysat.

Thursday I was in hometown district, so I didn't have to drive as far. This time I was with 7th grade language arts. They had a spelling test, afterwhich they worked on a persuasive writing packet for the rest of the time. You may be thinking, "Spelling test? But it's only Thursday!" Well yes, but this district had an institute day Friday making it a four-day weekend instead of three (Memorial Day ya know). Near-city district on the other hand was supposed to have a four-day weekend, though Tuesday instead of Friday being the off day, however for them Tuesday was a buffer day that got changed due to the winter's snow days.

Speaking of near-city district, as you already surmised from my opening paragraph I was back at Tuesday's and Wednesday's schools as a 6th grade resource teacher. No, not *that* one, but the one for the other team. I'll tell you, her first period was very busy. Do this, then this, then this, then this... Fortunately she gave me time constraints, otherwise it would have turned into a do this, then this, then leave a note on how we ran out of time for the rest period. Out of the rest of the day, team teaching with another teacher followed by a tutorial period, two of the periods were quite interesting as there were two subs in the room- a lot of teachers were out- could Memorial weekend have anything to it I wonder..? Come to think of it, there were a lot out on Thursday too in hometown district... Anyway, there was a little more restlessness in these students than the ones earlier in the week which I fully understand since it was a holiday weekend coming up after all.

So that was my week at work. I do hope I get a chance to fill

this week, all four days of school, but I suspect I won't have four full days.