y=mx+b

My three day assignment that was cancelled earlier this week would have been at the school I wound up at today. You can say it turned into a one day assignment I suppose. Oddly enough, the teacher I would have subbed for was the "team teacher" in two of the classes. In those classes I of course acted as an assistant, but I did get to teach four classes. I couldn't let the opportunity pass by and I mentioned the three day assignment to her and she told me she just rescheduled because she didn't like taking days off in October. I didn't ask why, but conferences are around this time I think so that's a possibility.

So the four classes were run pretty much the same way though they were actually two different levels. The regular math classes were working on percent markups and discounts. Given a cost and a percentage, they had to determine the final price. The other two classes were algebra. They were working on graphing equations and determining solutions from the graphs. I actually got a high complement in one of these classes. One of the students told me I taught this better than the regular teacher. I didn't know what else to say but to just thank him. So… Besides the last class having a couple of characters in it (I expected it, being a class of just eight students, and one of the regular classes as opposed to algebra) it was another pretty good day. First period was one of the two "team teaching" period, so Just watching for the one period and seeing things not in the plans definitely helped here in keeping with the routine though I suppose being eighth grade they wouldn't have had a tough time adjusting to a different routine if necessary.

It is now the start of a three-day weekend and time to get some rest…

I feel stupid…

Well, today I was a floater at a middle school, meaning that I would sub for different teachers throughout the day as they went to meetings. When I arrived they gave me a list. Four classes. Were they serious? I thought I had it fairly easy yesterday with five classes (in middle school six is typical, with a planning period, team meeting- subs not invited, and lunch). In this district one period is homeroom, making a total of ten periods of which a sub usually works seven when homeroom is added in. This meant that I had **three** extra periods off! A half-day of work for a full day's pay! Then again, this is me we're talking about. I didn't feel quite right about this so I asked at the office a few times if I was needed elsewhere during these breaks. They didn't have anything as was typical, so it would seem that I would get all the time off after all. However, in the afternoon the teacher I was subbing for for 7th and 10th periods decided she could use me after all to help out while she tried to get some other work done. I stress *tried* because in fact since she was in the room her students still came up to her and asked questions. By the way, they were doing research in the LMC so I mostly babysat as I couldn't answer a lot of the questions since I didn't know all the expectations of the project. Still not bad- a very easy day.

Now, some may think the title of this post applies to the above paragraph since I asked for extra work instead of just saying nothing and sitting in the lounge all day. Well, it always pays to not get on their bad side- I already don't take TA positions which pay about $30 less per day- and besides, I would have missed the situation I am about to write on. 🙂 Well, what happened was during one of the periods a couple of

students came in who weren't a part of the class. Remember, this was the LMC and not a classroom. That would be very strange if random students just came into a classroom where they were not a part of the class… Anyway, I wasn't aware of this at first and so questioned them when I saw they were not doing the research with the rest of the class. They told me they were here while their class was on a field trip. Were they being punished? Nope. They were seventh graders in an eighth grade math class, and all the eighth grade was on the field trip. Now I thought I was pretty good at math being in algebra in eighth grade, but here they were, two seventh graders in the eighth grade class. And to make matters worse, this seemed to be the top eighth grade math course, algebra 2. That's right, 2. I didn't take algebra 2 until my sophomore year (they split the two courses with geometry in the middle, which I took as a freshman). These two seventh graders were *two* years ahead of where I was when I was in middle school. They expect to be bused to high school next year for math as they apparently were bused to the middle school when they were in 5th grade… I guess if this keeps up they will be taking calculus in their junior year instead of in college, unless they bring themselves even further ahead in the next three years. Definitely two top engineers in the making.