

Ema Lam, a 2022-2023 Esther H. Strickland Student Teaching Grant recipient gives us her midway story! Do you remember your student teaching experience?

October 10, 2022

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I would like to update you on my progress, as this week marks the half way point in my 1st semester of year-long student teaching in Wright State University's Middle Childhood Education Program. I am a little embarrassed to say, I thought I may have more time this semester, but I found out quickly that the pace has really picked up! While there is little downtime between teaching, attending classes, and completing coursework, I am confident that I am being thoroughly prepared to teach.

I was placed in Miamisburg Middle School, teaching 6th grade ELA and Social Studies this school year. I immediately obtained my substitute teaching license in the district and met with my new cooperating teachers in July to decorate their classrooms. I was delighted to discover another member of my cohort is also working on my team. She has been placed in the math and science classrooms, and together we share just shy of 100 6th grade students. The greatest joy of working together is the ability to reflect daily on our students, our practices, collaborating on integrated studies, and initiating intervention and support programs for our students.

Within my placement, I am careful to be observant and implement feedback, yet I have also had the opportunity to advocate for students in need, as well as bring in a different teaching style. Once I gained my footing in my ELA classroom, I managed to secure a perfect score on my midterm assessment (preCPAST). The district has now closed for fall break, and when I return, I will move to the social studies classroom. Meanwhile, I am writing curriculum for my ELA return in December, in which I will carry out independently teaching for the remainder of my licensure program, graduating in April.

It is thanks to your support that I am able to participate in such meaningful experiences, leaving me fully prepared and excited to take on the endeavor of teaching as a lifelong career. I appreciate your continued interest in my future and look forward to announcing the completion of my degree.

Sincerely,
Ema Lam