

Jan 13, 2015

12:15pm-1:30pm (1hr. 15mins)

I began my journey to mentor at Classic City High School in a very typical “morganesque” way. I got lost, and not a little lost. Very much lost. Using GPS is a funny thing because it helps those of us directionally challenged, but equally so does it hurt us directionally challenged. I drove to the old school board building which I found empty. I thankfully had arrived ten minutes early so I looked up online where the building could be and found it was located on the same street I reside. I turned around and ended up at the school only ten minutes late. To my dismay, there were about four brick buildings all identical looking. I went into the first building to find out it was the farthest building away. Upon arrival they let me in through locked doors and my nerves set in. I had never been in a school with every door locked. I met with Mimi and she was very kind. She assigned me to John and walked me to his classroom. I met his teacher and himself. John is about 6’3 and probably 245lbs. He had dreads and tattoos coming out of his worn out black hoodie. John smiled and shook my hand. His speech was a little slow as he introduced himself. I smiled and they showed me where we would be working. It was a room next to the teachers and we were to leave the door open, and she was right next door if I were to need anything. John was working on his online health course. It would give him a word that he would have to match correctly to the definition then write it down on his own paper to study at home. John struggled with writing certain letters and was slow to do his work. He was very kind and excited to be there. Everyone who walked by waved and he knew their names. John told me about his family, how he had missed a few years, how he loved cooking and basketball, and how his favorite class was healthcare. We talked about UGA and how college was. It was an eye opening experience, and I think John has great potential to do whatever he sets his mind to. I look forward to going back!

Jan. 20, 2016

12:35pm-1:35pm (1 hour)

The second week into my journey of mentoring at Classic City High School, I was placed with John again. This time I did not get lost, however I did have an odd encounter upon my arrival at the Classic City High School’s parking lot. John was walking from the parking lot into the building when I arrived at around 12:30pm. I was in a dilemma. It was only my second time meeting him and we were still not comfortable with each other yet. I had caught him skipping class. I could’ve ignored John, reprimanded him for skipping class, or asked him why he wasn’t in class. I chose the last of the three. John shrugged off the question and replied “Oh hey, I was just getting some fresh air.” I replied “I came here to help you with your schoolwork, you have to be in school for me to do that!” with a smile. He grinned and said “I know, that’s why I came back.” I told the front office upon signing in that I had seen John outside skipping class, but he was headed back to class. They called the teacher to make sure John was back in class, and he was. I went to the classroom and helped John work through some of his online health quizzes. I would take turns reading the

questions with him. I would help him if he got caught up on a words pronunciation or meaning. We took 3 quizzes and made 100 on two of them and an 85 on the other one. Prior to my help, John was making 40's and 60's on his online health quizzes. He did not have a passing grade yet. I noticed often that John would get distracted and talk to his friends. Each time he did it drew him away from his train of thought. These distractions led to him misunderstanding the questions. I think with a little motivation and encouragement John will experience great success. His personality is great and he has no problem socializing. It is important to balance both and as John learns to master both he will do amazing things.

2/10/2016

12:50pm-1:45pm (55 minutes)

I missed two weeks of mentoring because of health and car issues. Upon my arrival back I was happy to hear that John was in class and doing well. The teacher suggested I work with a different student who was particularly struggling that day. Her name was Heather. Heather was at a much higher level than John. She chose to attend Classic City High School to graduate earlier from highschool, and pursue her dream to study college in Germany. We did Literature online and the questions proved to not be the easiest. Thankfully I was familiar with the material and could help walk her through the questions.

2/16/2016

I mentored with Heather again. She is very smart and mainly needs me to help pronounce difficult words. She understands context, but asks a lot about which multiple choice is correct after narrowing it down to two choices. It is difficult sometimes to decipher which one is more correctly worded. I told her that in college it isn't four multiple choice answers but more open ended essay like answers.

3/21/2016

I mentored Heather again. We did what we usually do multiple choice questions online. We covered a section about Native Americans and how they felt about being invaded by the British. I am not a big fan of multiple choice questions. The students seem to get really distracted by their phones. Luckily, Heather doesn't use her phone a lot when we are working together. However, Ive noticed other students seem easily distracted by phones.

3/25/2016

I didn't mentor Heather, but was with two different students today. A girl and a guy. They didn't get along very well and argued most of the class. It seemed like they were flirting to me more than fighting. He told me he wanted to go to Texas A&M for college. He wanted to major in psychology and be a therapist. They had a hard time

paying attention because it was two of them and me. They talked a lot about non school related topics. I had to remind them to work on their schoolwork.

3/30/2016

I worked with Heather again and she did well as usual. She made an 88 and a 94 on two quizzes. We talked about things other than school too. We talked about her family that came from Puerto Rico. We talked about Hispanic dishes. We talked about lots of things. I think when I first started at Classic City I was nervous that it would be students who were behind, and students who had behavioral issues. However, the students I met were all very smart, had goals, and were well behaved (for the most part).

4/4/2016

I worked with John and we did Health and Nutrition. John is very different from Heather. He talks a lot and is a ladies man. John likes to flirt with a lot of the girls and spends more of his time talking than working. Heather doesn't talk a whole lot but she is very hardworking. Both students will do great things if they focus on their strengths and use them to their advantage.

4/6/2016

As my time at Classic City is coming to an end, I have learned a lot from these students. I always went to really good schools. I went to a private school for most of my childhood and then a magnet school. It was scary for me to think about teaching students that I thought were so much different from me. I realized they aren't so different. They each have their strengths and weaknesses, they each get sick of school, they each have goals, they wake up and come to class everyday just like I did. I was impressed and surprised that the students wanted to learn and wanted to impress me. I always worried that my students would think I was lame or boring but I think if you show the students you care then they will like you and they will respect you no matter what school you are in.

4/11/2016

Cell Phones, I am so sick of cell phones. Everyone is on their phone all the time. When one person starts to text the person next to them gets distracted and wants to start texting too. It's almost as contagious as yawning. If there is one thing that I have learned to dislike it is the constant texting among students. They will play music on their phones loudly and distract the entire class. If it weren't for cell phones these students would be basically flawless students.

4/18/2016

It was my last day at Classic City. It was bitter sweet. I have loved my time at this alternative school. I have learned a lot, but I think the key takeaway is a greater appreciation for students in general. I think before coming here I had the wrong idea of students. The students are not the problem. The problem is technology and other factors that distract the students from their goals. I am grateful for this experience, and I feel more confident as an emerging teacher.