

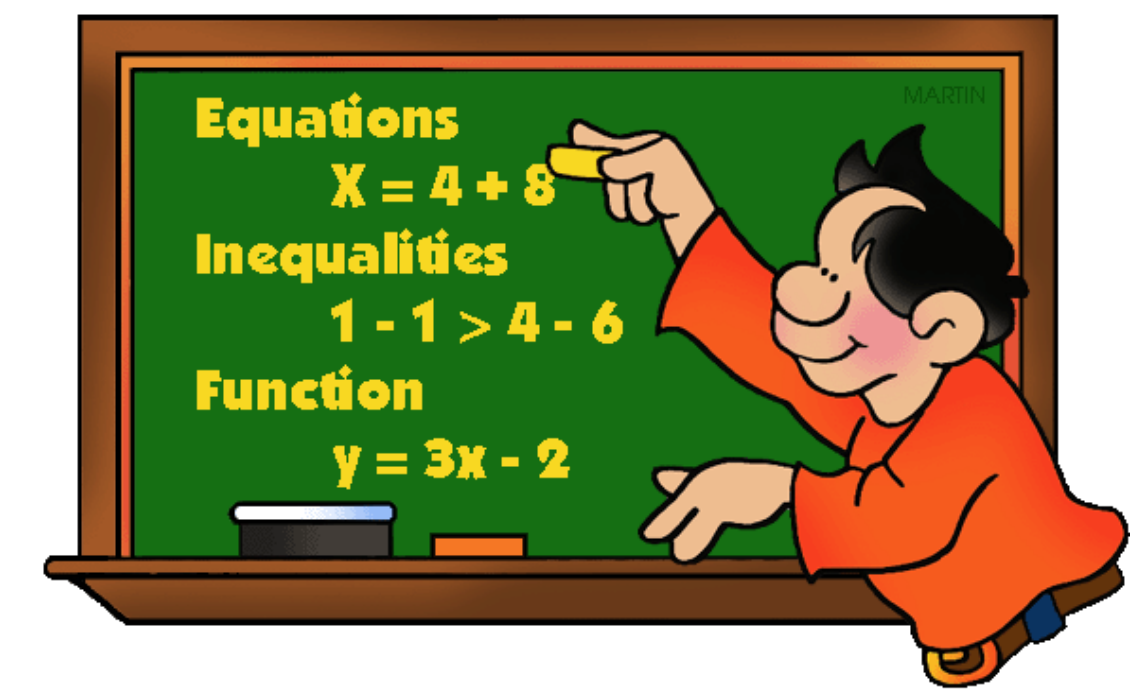
# It's Elementary: A Scholarly Presentation of the Practicum



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Science Discovery and the Universe  
Civil and Environmental Engineering



## Introduction

## Detailed Description and Graphic Representation

## Findings

My capstone project is a service-learning at a local elementary school. I served as a teacher's assistant by floating around a few teacher's classes and pulling small groups of students aside to help them catch up and learn class material. The class material consists of reading strategies, writing support, and math concepts.

As a student, I enjoy the school environment which includes learning, social-emotional, and spending time with my teachers and friends. I want to give back to students who have challenges inside the classroom and help them understand the importance of being a lifelong learner. My goals for this project include:

Help the students understand new concepts and the importance of being in school.  
Assist the teacher in lightening up their workload while I am in their classroom.



Ashburton Elementary School

### Responsibilities:

During my time at Ashburton Elementary School, my responsibilities included:

- Working one-on-one with students and in small groups
- Taking the teacher's instruction and breaking it down for the students to understand
- Assisted students in organizing their notebooks

### Project Description:

Currently, Ashburton Elementary is overcrowded with student enrollment and not enough teaching assistants. As a teaching assistant volunteer, I can provide services to help students learn who are underachieving and are in danger of not meeting academic criteria.

### School Address:

Ashburton Elementary School:  
6314 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD, 20817

After completing my capstone project, I had time to reflect on my experiences. I learned that I am thorough and conscientious as well as self-reflecting. I was able to use my past experiences as a student to give back to students who are struggling. Also during my experiences, I successfully met my goals through my dedication to this capstone project. The teachers I helped would mention how valuable my services were in helping the students grow and learn. Originally, I set a few goals for myself, including a goal to help develop better time management skills, but I realized that this capstone project was not about me. This project was about giving back to my community and in doing so I volunteered my time to help struggling students excel in the classroom. My experiences over the past year at Ashburton Elementary helped these students build a strong foundation of confidence in the classroom which led to many academic successes.

*"Always Be on the Lookout for the Presence of Wonders"*  
~ E.B. White

## Methods

In order to commute to the school, I took the Metro from the College Park Station to the Grosvenor-Strathmore Station. Shortly after getting off, I took an Uber ride to the school. During my time at the school, the students were excited whenever I would walk into their classroom and ready to learn. The primary subjects I helped in were Reading, Math, Writing, and at times Science and Social Studies.

The teachers I helped during my time were:

- Mrs. Bigley, Grade 1
- Mrs. Miller, Grade 3
- Mrs. Rouse, Grade 3
- Media Center Specialist, all grades

At the end of my day at the elementary school, I would get a ride with one of the teacher's listed above back to Grosvenor-Strathmore Station. I would then take the Metro back to College Park and start my classes for the day at the university.



Images from Ashburton Elementary School



## Conclusions

After the completion of my capstone project, I realized that my service back to the community does not have to stop here. There are many opportunities waiting for me including becoming a tutor for grade level students and becoming a TA at the university.

Also, I realized that there are other measures to success. Throughout my capstone project I was welcomed into the Ashburton Elementary community, I took time out of my day to make others around me feel better and appreciative of me, and I embraced the success of my students as if it were my own.

I am very happy with the outcome of my capstone project and I am glad I enrolled into the Scholars Program of Science Discovery and the Universe with Dr. Peel, Ms. Thomson and Ms. Jennifer.

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