

Interview

I had the opportunity to interview Mikella Nelson a CTE Teacher at Vista Heights Middle School. My daughter Taylee is her T.A (teachers assistant) and had her last year for foods. She loves Mrs. Nelson. I wanted to interview a teacher who teaches Career and Technical Education as I am interested in teaching Foods or Clothing possibly down the road. Note: She has asked me to call her Mikella and not Mrs. Nelson so I will refer to her in the remainder of my writing as such.

I am about to graduate with my associate in Fashion Design and am looking into future careers and possible continued education opportunities. I was exploring my options for teaching as I have wanted to teach home economics since Jr. High, so I decided to interview Mikella after she shared with me where she went to school and what she graduated in during a parent teacher conference. Her passion for her school and job was intriguing and I wanted to explore her career more.

Lessons learned and interview.

Getting started in secondary education CTE and future employment

During the interview proses I learned what educational paths I need to take to become a CTE teacher in a secondary education setting. I found that you need a bachelor's degree in Family Consumer Science to teach any of the CTE classes in the state of Utah. However there are options for teaching with a bachelor's outside FACS and secondary education. There are test that can be taken and certificates that they can earn in order to receive the licenses for teaching.

Mindy Batt
MKTG 1960—3
Interview
2/21/2013

Every public school teacher in Utah must hold a current license often called a certificate of teaching.

I have talked to many teachers and they all say the most frustrating thing about teaching is the “crappy pay” but after consulting with Mikella she describes how it is possible to earn more. She explained how there are different lane changes that take place though out your teaching career that determine what pay scale you are in. Some of the ways you can change lanes is to obtain a higher education like a masters or Doctorate degree. Another way is based on the number of years teaching or the number of licenses or certificates you obtain.

Mikella recommends Utah State University offers as it offers 100% placement in their FACS Degree which covers 5 minors. She thinks is because of the amount of different classes you can teach with this degree. The FACS Degree covers subjects in career and technical education including but not limited to Foods, Nutrition, 8th grade Facts, Teen living, CTE intro, Home and Interiors, Child Care, Foods, Textiles, clothing and apparel. I think this is a great degree to get in order to achieve my career goals as a teacher in domestic arts.

I anticipate it to take 3.5 years to complete my bachelor’s degree as my associate will not transfer as a degree because it is an associate of applied science degree but my credits will transfer as electives and generals mixed thus reducing my 4.5 years as Mikella said it took her to 3.5 years. 3 years of which are traditional classes and one semester student teaching. This was very helpful as I did not know my degree would not transfer as a whole.

A Typical Day

Mindy Batt
MKTG 1960—3
Interview
2/21/2013

Mikella shared with me how her day plans out. She has so much passion for helping the kids learn and become better people. She said there is never a dull moment. “Kids are funny and will say anything” she stated they keep her on her toes. Her outlook on teaching is inspiring and it is apparent the love she has for her job and students.

She is constantly working and moving about even though lunch. Most of the day is spent in prepping for the next class whether it is gadding papers, making copies or shopping of groceries. She schedules her prep during paid prep hours so she doesn’t take work home with the exception of grocery shopping which she also gets paid to do. Mikella commented on her colleges and stated that some of them stay long hours at the school or take work home because they are not very proactive during school hours. She suggested not to get caught up in the gossip and just get to work.

Mikella talked about the best part of being a teacher is interaction with students and making a difference in a students’ life. She loves teaching them the skills needed to be functioning adults. She shared with me her struggles with large class sizes and the amount of special need children that attend her classes as they are electives that come with less stress for them but more for her. The challenges faced while trying to wrangle 45-50 students by herself in a dangerous atmosphere like cooking and sewing were also discussed and appear to be a very valid concern.

During the summer months there are opportunities to make extra money like collaboration with other teachers \$400 for 3 days, Internships \$2,000 for 2 weeks, teaching summer school or working a summer job outside the school district. She speaks very highly of Alpine School district as they are very fair with their pay.

Mindy Batt
MKTG 1960—3
Interview
2/21/2013

Clearinghouse question

The most important thing that Mikella thought I might need to know was not to be discouraged and “just do it.” Administration at some Universities can be harsh because they are trying to weed out the weaker students but don’t let it get to you and just go for it.

She encouraged me to take the Praxes test right after graduation while the information is fresh on the brain. Many don’t take it until their 5th year in which it is required to be taken by. At that time they often stress and have to take refresher courses in order to pass it. Also continue to go to school to get your masters in teaching. There is a program established for working adult, with only 6 credits per semester. Don’t wait even a year or two. It becomes too hard to go back Mikella adds.

Talking to principles from schools I am interested in before I even go to school is a great suggestion she gave me. In some states they allow teachers to teach while going to school for their bachelor’s. Once again don’t waste time.

Interview Analysis

This interview opened my insight into the teaching career choice I am exploring. It made me more aware of my skills regarding interviewing and taught me correct ways achieve the end result.

Analysis of Teaching CTE as my Career Choice

After this interview, I have a new excitement for this career. I am excited to find out where I am going to go to school next and how I am going to make my classes I have already taken work to my advantage in this career choice. I know my passion for helping others see their own potential

Mindy Batt
MKTG 1960—3
Interview
2/21/2013

will be addressed in this career and I am happy that I will be able to make a difference in students' lives if I pursue teaching. Mikella suggested that I talk to a teacher in a High School and get their point of view as they may offer a different prospective on teaching because of the age group they teach. However my education would not change between Jr. and high school.

I am very happy with the outcome of my interview I feel I have more knowledge regarding my education. I am glad I had so many cancelations with other possible career choices as it led me to discover a new career choice though Mikella.

Analysis of my Interviewing Proses

I am an extrovert by nature and find it very easy to conduct and hold a conversation with anyone including someone I do not know very well. I keep referring to the lesson we learned in class on listening and how to be an active listener. I wanted Mikella know I was listening and understood what she was saying. It was good practice in being aware of my body language in response to her talking.

I often have a problem with staying focused and on subject so I printed out my questions as outlined in the assignment and brought them with me in a nice leather folder so that I could take notes and refer to the questions in order to stay on task. This was a great idea since both her, and I tended to wonder away from the original question a few times. I found that she answered many of my questions before I even asked them and I had to revise what I was saying in order to complete my interview and cover what I wanted to.

In all the interview took a little longer then I had planned because of the in formalness of the conversation but I did not want to interrupt as she did not seamed rushed and had a lot of

Mindy Batt
MKTG 1960—3
Interview
2/21/2013

information to share. I made sure I was finished in the allowed amount of time she set aside for me.

I had planned the interview to be more formal but then she asked if she could cut out some laminate while we talked. I didn't want to be rude as she was taking time out of her prep time to do this for me so I consented. I think that was the start to the informality. However I do feel like she shared more information with me because she was so comfortable in a relaxed situation then she would have had it been a more formal interview. Because she did not make much eye contact when answering questions (because she was cutting paper) it was easy for me to take notes and not distract from the conversation. I still only wrote down words that would jog my memory but I didn't have to worry as much if there was something that required more writing.

As the interview was closing I reiterated what her key points were. I briefly followed my closing as I had rehearsed and reminded her of the impact she has on my daughter and how I wish to do the same in my future career. I found this to be a very valuable assignment. I now know what educational paths to follow and how to properly conduct myself in an interview. I am grateful they have this as part of the curriculum.

Questions I asked.

Topic 1: Getting started in secondary education CTE.

First I would like to find out how you got started in this field.

1. Let's start at the beginning, when did you decide you wanted to be a teacher? -What makes this career a good choice for you?

-What do you find is frustrating working as a teacher?

2. How did you decide what subject you most wanted to teach?

-Where there other subject choices or degrees you were interested in?

-Have you always taught those subjects?

3. What determined your choice of Jr. High?

-Did you have other choices or preferences?

-Is Jr. High what you expected it to be?

4. What educational paths would you recommend for me if I was to continue to pursue this career? -How long did it take you to get your degree?

-What other degrees would you recommend to take in order to teach I this field?

5. What kind of skills do I need to know besides formal education before becoming a teacher?

-where did you obtained those skills?

-do you feel those skills make you a better teacher?

Topic 2: A Typical day

Now that we have covered how you to started I would like to learn what your job is like on a day to day basis.

1. Can you tell me about how a typical day plays out?

Mindy Batt
MKTG 1960—3
Interview
2/21/2013

-what task is most difficult?

-what is the most simple?

2. What is the prep time like?

- do you spend a lot of your own time off the clock to prepare?

- did the work load increase or decrease as you continued teaching?

3. What is the best part about your job?

-what do you wish would change?

4. Could you tell me more about your schedule?

-are you able to subsidize work during the summer months?

-where you able to determine what days you would teach?

Topic 3: What prospects for future employment are in this profession?

What is the placement for a career in education?

1. What different subjects can you teach?

-can you teach multiple classes if they are different subjects?

-do you work outside of the school system?

2. Are there any other degrees you would suggest for this degree?

-If I was to attend a school that does not offer your degree what would you suggest?

Clearinghouse question: The interviewee's turn

1. If there is anything I might have missed that you think I need to be aware of?

2. Can you think of anyone else I could interview to get more information about the field before I enter the teaching field?