

# Portage Northern Business Department Job Shadow | 2016

**Directions:** You are required to answer every question. If a question does not apply to your job shadow experience, put N/A in the answer slot. Spellcheck does not work when typing in the form fields. You will have to type your answers on a separate Word document to use spell check, then you can copy and paste your response into this form field.

<b>Company Visited:</b>	West Middle School		
<b>Student Name:</b>	Sara Wieber	<b>Date Job Shadow Took Place On:</b>	4/28/2016
<b>Person Job Shadowed:</b>	Linda Holzwarth	<b>Job Title:</b>	Teacher

**1. Explain the business – What does this company do?**

West Middle School is a middle school that gives kids ages 12-14 a great education with fantastic faculty.

**2. What was the first thing you noticed when you arrived (about the facility, people, dress code, etc.)?**

The first thing I noticed were kids waiting to go to their lockers, and also the people were extremely nice and helpful. The teachers were dressed professionally but not over-the-top. The environment was relaxed but semi-stressful when I walked into Mrs. Holzwarth's classroom due to her preparing for the day before her students arrive.

**3. What does a typical day look like for the person you shadowed?**

**a. Hours?**

About 12 hours a day; She is usually grading or making lesson plans long after the school day ends.

**b. Job Duties/Tasks?**

Make lesson plans, teach the kids, problem solve, delegate constantly, grade papers, and have to be kind and smile.

**c. Meetings?**

Individual Educational Program meetings (7 am); meetings once a week after school (3 pm).

**d. Work Environment?**

Constant noise, happy faces, wonderful peers, stressful but rewarding

**e. Who do they interact with? (Colleagues, customers, clients, etc.)**

Students and colleagues; must get stuff done with every inch of time

**f. Travel opportunities?**

None

**4. Share with the reader the shadowee's background information/career path.**

**a. How long has this person worked in the position?**

18 years at West Middle School, 24 years total

**b. What education was achieved?**

She earned a bachelor's degree

**c. What motivated your shadowee to pursue this career?**

She pursued this career because she always loved playing school as a kid, and always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She is also a fourth generation teacher in her family.

**5. What types of skills/training/continuing education are required for this job (Technical? Employability? Personal Characteristics?)**

You need to be patient, understanding, kind, humorous, firm, full of energy, responsible, and flexible. During staff meetings they learn literary techniques and there are conferences sometimes.

**6. What are the career opportunities/advancement opportunities for this job/field?**

None

**7. What are the negative/positive aspects about this job?**

**a. Negative**

There is too much pressure on teachers, some teachers work hard and others don't, parent interaction can be bad sometimes (can email nasty things to teachers without having to meet face to face), and there's not much room for advancement

**b. Positive**

There are too many to list. One of the biggest positive aspects is influencing kids.

**8. What advice would you give to students who want your type of job?**

Be ready to not make much money, but to gain much more wealth.

**9. What school subjects and employability skills did you see being used at the job site? How were they used?**

English: grading papers, teaching students proper grammar

Math: grading papers, teaching students math (depending on subject or grade level)

Many other school subjects since I was at a school.

In her classroom, I watched her teach social studies.

**10. If discussed what is the average salary range and/or benefits package of this career?**

N/A

**11. What did you learn from doing this job shadow?**

I learned that there is a lot of stress involved in teaching. It is much more than grading papers and teaching during the day. There are some parents who feel entitled or when they have an issue with a teacher, they can be mean. I've always been the kind of student to get things done and communicate with the teacher, but there were some students who turned things in very late and avoid talking to the teacher. I always thought that Mrs. Holzwarth was naturally full of energy and loved teaching, but when I saw how drained she

was in between each class and how stressed she was about getting everything done...I earned so much more respect for her and all teachers.

**12. What did you think/feel about the job shadow experience, what did you like/not like?**

**Was the job what you expected it to be? Would you still consider this job for your future?**

**Please state why or why not.**

I loved being at West Middle School again. I forgot how much I loved middle school because when you're there, you just want to leave. I liked watching Mrs. Holzwarth teach and how involved the students were. She is able to connect with everyone and keep history fun and interesting. Watching her interact with the other teachers and her bosses was interesting because they are all so friendly to each other, and seem like a family. I didn't like having to watch her scold one of her students for turning work in late and not coming in to retake their test. It was fun watching her teach, answer questions about myself each class, and to be in my middle school again. I would still consider this as a future career even though my mom, Mrs. Holzwarth, and several other people I know tell me not to. I love working with kids and would love to be a positive influence in their lives. Before shadowing Mrs. Holzwarth, I was considering elementary school grade levels, but afterwards, I think teaching in middle school would be very rewarding. It is a time in their lives where they are experiencing a lot of changes and I want to be someone in their lives that they can talk to about anything, while giving them a great education.