I am placed in Tyrone Area School District at the high school of the same name, under the supervision of Mr. G. Ron Wilson. Mr. Wilson I found has been teaching with this district for the previous ten years. Before that he had spent two years substitute teaching and prior to that had taught two years at Punxsutawney, which he had left to find work closer to his family. At Tyrone Area High School he has attained the role of Department Head, in addition to his courses that he teaches; including earth Science, astronomy and a combined A(stronomy) G(ology) M(eteorology) O(ceanography) class. This last composite course is an elective course that is available only to the upperclassmen. I will be teaching, this year, his earth science class of ninth graders and his AGMO course which is all seniors. I may also be visiting classrooms of a few of his coworkers and may possibly teach a class in physics, general science, or chemistry.

His fourteen years have taught him expedience is key in many areas, and organization in all. He has developed his own form of lesson plan and a repertoire of activities and former lessons that he can draw upon at a moment’s notice. He is lucky enough to have a room that is adjoining to a storage room that serves the laboratory. This he affirms to be happenstance but finds it incredibly useful as it gives him ample space to store all of his ‘props’ for his lessons. He advises that I quickly develop, and ideally before starting teaching, a substantial base of resources upon which to draw partial or complete lesson plans, videos, and resources so as to be able to reduce my workload when I begin teaching. He states that any one lesson will have roughly four hours, at a maximum, worth of planning; that is if I intend to do things such as eat, sleep, maintain a heartbeat, etc.

He says that his classes will, and do, demonstrate a relaxed discipline style wherein students feel free to move about, talk quietly, work in groups or use classroom resources such as the computer without direction or interference; so long as they do so without bringing
interruption to other students and also do so during appropriate times, not when he is actively teaching. Mr. Wilson openly recognized to me that this style is his own and does not work for everyone. He has found that it is appropriate to him but asks me to find my own. I have not asked him, as I believe it might be miss taken, but wonder whether my finding and using a style of my own might land me a mutiny as it would likely be a stricter disciplinary take on things.

As I understand my position from Mr. Wilson’s point of view, I will be teaching as many lessons as I feel myself capable of taking, excepting that this number must be greater than six, but I will not be required to take more than this from him this semester unless it be my desire. He has invited me to remain at the school for as long as I should like on days that I am present and that I am welcome on any day despite the proposed schedule. I am taking him up on this offer so as to be able to observe and become involved in other curricula that I will be teaching. Specifically all of the physics is taught in periods after my CI 495C dismissal time, and I should like to see some of these, if Mr. Gruber will have me. As of this semester I am to have no position in the enforcement side of discipline within the school. Next semester my position will be changed in that I will be in complete control it seems, from August through the start of Winter break. The details of that ‘full control’ though have yet to be worked out.

This information was not obtained through a formal interview but instead I simply informed Mr. Wilson of the assignment and as I received no indication of a desire to not participate have simply kept a mental log of his advice and comments toward his own history and learning of our field. I have been collecting this information from February 16th, 2009 at approximately 0730hrs EST through March 5th of the same year.