

advice for practicum

-observe

-be helpful

-be open-minded

-be humble

-be professional

-dress up

-arrive early and expect to leave late

-don't try to be every student's friend; aim to earn respect rather than friendship

-try to figure out the prevalent teacher practices in the school re: communication with parents, communication with office, discipline, homework, etc.

-don't try and change things; take your cues from the environment and ethos your associate teachers have put in place

-remember that teaching is hugely individual; what works for other teachers may not work for you.

-HOWEVER have an open mind to different teaching styles—even if the teacher is very different from you, her/his approach may be worth giving a try (especially if it's what the students expect)

-celebrate small victories

-move on from failures and defeats; don't dwell on them (till later—you can only learn from failure when the grieving is over)

-if you feel you're struggling, focus on helping individuals

-seek multiple opinions for solving problems

-remember it will all be over soon

-find ways to transfer your fleeting experiences into lasting learning (e.g. talk about your experiences with people who can help you gain perspective, ideally other teachers, and consider reflective journaling)

-exercise

-find moments of quiet