

A Week's Reflections, by Chase Orton, Math Fellow 2005:

At the end of every week, I am continually amazed by how many experiences get squeezed into a week of life here at Eagle Rock. For me, it's a rich, rewarding, and trying way to live and work, it can also be intimidating at times, nevertheless, I am never bored with my job or life at Eagle Rock.

Monday:

- Get ready for 8:00 am gathering with the whole community.
- After gathering, take one hour to plan and organize.
- Meet with Jimmy, my teaching mentor and the math instructional specialist, about today's lesson plans.
- First period: "Is Democracy Fair?", an interdisciplinary math and social studies course. The goal for today is to help students recognize the connections between different voting systems and their personal definition of fairness.
- Second period: "Civilizations". We are analyzing the connections between exponential growth and the writings and philosophies of Daniel Quinn.
- Lunch and coffee break
- Third period: "Triangles" where students apply geometry skills to measure distant objects indirectly.
- Dinner
- 7 pm: Help students with math and guide others on independent studies.
- 10 pm: Return to Willow House, hang out, and prepare for another busy day.

The rest of the week is pretty typical—each day having similarity in its pace and demands to Monday.

Tuesday:

- Fellow training in the afternoon on coaching. We learn about how to listen effectively and help coach colleagues through professional issues. After the meeting, house meetings and making dinner with students. Then I meet up with a fellow to plan a class I'm really excited. It's a class called "Let it Ride!" that involves the physics and math of mountain biking. I'm excited about the opportunity to be in the outdoors again and to bring math into context with real-world experiences.

Wednesday:

- Start with Wednesday morning gathering. Then intramurals all morning and meetings and advisories in the afternoon. Regardless of the physical demands of intramurals and the mental demands of meetings, I cherish Wednesday for the break from teaching.

Thursday:

- We have shortened classes and faculty meet for an hour and discuss current issues. Duty Thursday night involve facilitating student activities, bonding with students, giving extra help, and doing bed checks at 10 pm.

Friday and Saturday:

- My days off. Friday, I teach a morning class and get paperwork done before taking off for the afternoon. Saturday, I enjoy a lazy day sleeping in, grabbing a late breakfast, taking a nap, and going on a night hike. It is great to enjoy a brief moment of rest before my duty shift on Sunday.

Sunday:

- Start the day with a late morning brunch. Duty in the afternoon with student activities and spending time with students, talking, helping them with their work, ending after 10 pm. At the end of the day, I'm ready for bed and rest for the next week of work, experience, joy, and growth....