

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI



Elizabeth Kanzenbach (*GPLHS / Bethel-Sioux Falls SD*) serves with a smile.



Jeff Heyer (*FVL / Immanuel-Greenville WI*) uses skills he's learned to get his point across.



Abbee Olsen (*Manitowoc LHS / Zion-Kiel WI*) uses her guitar skills in the classroom.

Falling in Love with the Classroom

Imagine a scenario in which Michael Jordan steps onto the court to play basketball for the very first time. He would barely be able to dribble a ball, much less shoot consistently or fly through the air to throw down a dunk from the free throw line. What an absolutely ridiculous concept! Michael Jordan wouldn't be remembered as one of the undisputed greatest players of all time if he hadn't first learned the rules and practiced for hundreds of hours. MLC doesn't expect its prospective teachers to get their first calls without practice either, so they get a lot of it, beginning with their Early Field Experience (EFE).

First-years, sophomores, and juniors participate in EFE, putting tools in their toolboxes in preparation for their student teaching senior year. "For the first couple days," said first-year **Grace Gibson** (*Evergreen LHS / Holy Trinity-Des Moines WA*), "we had mini-seminars given by teachers from all over WELS. We received insight into different aspects of teaching and how to construct a lesson. After the seminars, students from the local grade school came to MLC so we could teach them in a controlled environment. We all got to teach two lessons to two different groups of kids, as well as to our classmates, which was so fun!"

For first-year education majors, it's such a confidence-booster to be able to try teaching in the comfort of familiar classrooms. The opportunity to apply things as they learn them gives students the preparation they need for the real deal. By their sophomore year, it's time for some more EFE in a classroom of their choice anywhere in the nation. "I got to teach second-grade science!" said sophomore **Margaret Menges** (*West LHS / Cross of Christ-Coon Rapids MN*). "We all got to learn about thunderstorms and the power of static electricity through some hands-on experiments with balloons, pop cans, and paper confetti."

It's difficult not to smile while scrolling through all the EFE pictures on MLC's Facebook page. How incredibly encouraging to see so clearly how God provides for his people. Every smiling face, Lord-willing, is one that will positively affect the lives of hundreds of children and their parents as they share the powerful gospel of our loving Savior. EFE is just the beginning of this blessed ministry.

Junior **Ethan Coffee** (*Daniel Pearl Magnet HS / St. Paul First-North Hollywood CA*) just completed his final EFE experience and said, "I have also gotten to practice my teaching skills with a wide variety of ages. I've loved connecting with the kids as well as faculty members as I get to share my faith with them."

Margaret shared some additional thoughts about how important EFE has been in her journey at MLC. She said, "Honestly, I was really on the fence about going to MLC to be a teacher, but it really helped me to know that I would have opportunities like EFE. Time dedicated to teaching lessons to actual children showed me that this is exactly what I want to do. I think if you are on the fence about MLC, simply consider your gifts and if you could serve your Lord with them. There are so many different opportunities to get first-hand experience here."

Perhaps MLC is where you'll fall in love with the classroom! We'd love to set you on the path to serving the kingdom in this way, by God's grace.