A Day in the Life of a Brooke Elementary Teacher

7:15 AM Morning Arrival
When Tahirah arrives at school, she takes a few minutes to respond to important emails and look over her lesson plans for the day. At 7:15 she starts greeting her students at the door to her classroom, the University of Hawai'i. She chats with one student about their upcoming dance recital and another about their independent reading book before circulating around the room to give students feedback on their morning work.

7:45 AM Morning Meeting
At 7:45, Tahirah enters attendance and her students transition to the rug for morning meeting where they play a game and set goals for the week. Today, her students decide they need to work on responding thoughtfully to each other during discussions.

8:00 AM Morning Academics
Next, Tahirah teaches reading and social studies. Her students read complex texts and respond to their classmates' thinking during a discussion. After social studies, Tahirah’s class eats snack. She spends this time chatting and playing games with them before transitioning to math. Her instructional leader walks in at the start of the math lesson for an observation. Tahirah is working on increasing participation during the math discussion, so she is excited to see how it goes and get feedback later in the day.

10:50 AM Prep Time
At 10:50, Tahirah drops her students off at recess. She stops by another 5th grade teacher’s classroom and they talk about how the math lesson went in each of their rooms. They noticed similar misconceptions among their kids so they make a plan to address this in math class tomorrow.

11:15 AM Math Conferences
Once her students transition into the classroom from recess, Tahirah sits at her u-table to begin conferencing. This is a time when Tahirah can meet one-on-one and in small groups with students to support them with their individual goals. While she conferences, the rest of the class works on math problems in partnerships.

12:10 PM Prep Time
After dropping her class off at lunch, Tahirah eats her own lunch and texts a few parents about the great work their kids did that morning. At 12:25, Tahirah’s students go to dance class and she heads to a data meeting with her team and their instructional leader. The 5th graders recently took an ELA assessment, so the team meets to talk through strengths and growth areas and to brainstorm next steps for their students. Tahirah leaves feeling energized with a plan for supporting her kids as readers.
1:20 PM Writing and Observation Debrief

Once Tahirah’s class returns from Dance, it’s time to start writing class. They draft essays on Chromebooks while Tahirah conferences with a few students to help them write strong thesis statements. At 2:05, it is time to transition the class to science, which is another prep period for Tahirah. During this time, she has a debrief with her instructional leader about the morning’s math lesson. She noticed a huge improvement in the number of students who participated during the lesson and wants Tahirah to work on her questioning throughout the math discussion. They talk through examples of strong questions and she shares that she will be back to observe next Monday to see how things are going.

3:00 PM Snack and Independent Reading

After science, Tahirah’s class has snack. A few students play chess on the rug, some draw, and others chat with Tahirah about what they did in science class. Once they clean up snack, they transition to independent reading. During this time, Tahirah once again has the opportunity to conference with students on the skills they are working on.

3:45 PM Afternoon Meeting and Dismissal

Once they are packed up, Tahirah’s students transition to the rug for afternoon meeting. They share shout-outs for their teammates from the day and play a team building game before being dismissed. Once her students have left the classroom, Tahirah welcomes students to her bus room where she reads books, plays games, and chats with them while they wait for their bus to be called. Once their bus arrives, she walks outside with them and makes sure they all get on safely. Tahirah goes back to her classroom and cleans up a bit. She heads home at 4:45, ready to come back and tackle another great day tomorrow.

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