8:00 I arrived at the site a few minutes early, parked the car, and stopped by the office to sign in and see if anything was in my mailbox. Walked to the classroom to drop off my stuff and checked in with my instructor about the plans for the day. We talked about the warm-up exercise that I’d be doing with the class that morning and I helped to set up the classroom for the morning’s activities. Had a few moments to get some papers copied before I needed to make my way over to the drop-off area.

8:40 Went to the drop-off area. When I got to the circle, the cars were already lined up and waiting. We started getting the kids out of the cars promptly at 8:45 and there was a steady stream of arrivals. Today, my only assignment was to open doors and shepherd students to the other PAs who took them to their classrooms. Tomorrow I have that duty. Arrival ended at 9:00 but there are always a few latecomers. The dean of students and site director took over for us at 9:00 and we went back to our classrooms. There was lots to do in those next 15 minutes— I helped the kids get settled in, took attendance, led my warm-up exercise, gathered up remaining lanyards, and still got to the PA meeting room before our meeting started.

9:15 Settled in for the meeting. It was pretty low key. We signed up for activities for the next several days and brainstormed activity ideas for next week. We got a chance to bring up concerns and had a productive brainstorming session about next week’s community project. We even had some time to design a few possible advertisements for the project.

10:00 I went back to the classroom. Everyone was in their writing workshop group and pretty involved in their discussion. I moved around the room and listened in on a few of the conversations, asked a few questions, and made a few suggestions when a piece of writing was being shared.

10:15 It was time for break, bathroom runs, a trip to the water fountain, and even a quick game of silent speedball in the hallway. We usually go out for break but there was a bit of drizzle and we stayed inside.

10:25 We went back into the classroom and it took a minute or two for everyone to settle in. Everyone, including myself and the instructor, responded to a journal prompt on the board—“What do you think is the most memorable scene from The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe?” We shared our opinions in small groups; I had time to be part of three different groups before the full-class discussion got underway.

11:30 Time for lunch! We made a quick stop at the bathroom for hand washing before taking our places in the lunch line. We were near the back of the line but it moved pretty quickly. As we got closer to the food I told them, once again, that it was spaghetti and meatballs day. I reminded them to hold their plates level, but we still had some meatballs that managed to make a dash from a plate onto the floor. I sat where I could easily see what was going on at both tables of my class. Lunch was uneventful and clean-up was quickly and quietly accomplished.

12:00 We went outside for recess. I settled into a spot near the four-square game. The game got a bit out of hand when several students disagreed on whether the ball hit the line. Unfortunately, it turned into some name calling by two of the players. I took them aside and explained that we don’t speak that way at CTY. Later in the afternoon I wrote an incident report.
12:30 I led my students back to the classroom. I was only there for a few moments before I left to set up for soccer, my afternoon activity. There were a large number of participants so I didn’t work alone. I met the other soccer PAs at the activity storage area. We checked the balls and had to inflate one of them. We gathered the cones and balls and went over to check on the field condition; it was in playable condition even with the morning rain. Someone else had already brought the water jugs to the field. We checked to see if anyone needed help setting up their activities, spent a few minutes cataloging our arts and crafts supplies, and still had time to sit down and rest for a while before I had to go back to the classroom.

1:30 It was break time, again! This time we went outside for a brief, but spirited, game of Simon Says. Then I went back to the classroom where the students finished their individual drawings for the fantasy world project and we assembled them on one of the boards. Some of the drawings are quite impressive! Can’t wait to hear the stories that they create based on this world and its inhabitants!

2:30 Time for activities! We went to the common activity meeting area and the students all moved to the spots designated for the activity they selected. I went to where the soccer sign was posted and after checking our participant lists, we went to the field. We had several games going simultaneously. We had to restructure teams a bit, but other than that, no problems.

3:45 At the end of activities, after everyone cleaned up the field, I led the kids back to the meeting area and then went to the appointed spot for our class. I took roll to make sure everyone was there and then we lined up and went back to class. The students got a few last minute instructions about their homework assignment, gathered up their belongings, and lined up for dismissal. On the way to the pick-up area, I dropped off a few boys who were going to After-Care and then moved the rest of the group to our designated waiting area on the grass.

4:00 Cars were lined up and waiting. We went to the grassy area and stayed there with Angela’s class. I supervised her students so that she could work at one of the car stations. When the students’ names were called, I sent them to their pick-up stations. Sometimes, it’s a challenge to keep them quiet enough to hear whose names are being called. Finally, everyone was put into the proper vehicles except for a handful of stragglers. We waited a few moments before taking them to After-Care. I made a quick trip to the classroom to check in with my instructor and gathered my stuff before going to the office to sign out and check my mailbox. I left to go home.