

Hello! My name is Elly Meissner. I am currently studying elementary education at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. I just finished my first year there and I will be returning at the end of August to begin my second year. I worked at the Manitowoc Public Library as a shelving page during my high school career, and I am thrilled to have been offered the chance to come back as the youth intern.



As an education major, I wanted to find a summer job that would give me valuable experience and skills relevant to my major. Among those experiences I had at Manitowoc Public Library were watching and participating in storytimes. I had so much fun interacting with the kids and seeing the smiles on their faces. I started by observing how the other staff do their story times, and then I joined them and participated in reading stories, singing songs, and other activities. Eventually, I did a few on my own.

Storytimes gave me a sense as to what it will be like being in front of children and leading them, which will be necessary for my future career. I also got to plan book displays, create passive programs such as library bingo, work on decorations for our department, and I assisted staff in planning events. These activities helped me gain an understanding on how I can plan lessons and engage with the kids once I have a classroom of my own.

It was wonderful to see how busy our department was over summer. I felt welcomed by all of the staff and our patrons. I enjoyed being on desk, providing a helping hand to our patrons, teen

volunteers, and staff. I also found it astounding how important our library is to the community. Every day, we had families walk into the doors looking for resources. I loved helping them find books, Playaways, DVDs, and many other materials. It felt so special being a part of something so valuable to our city.

This has been such a positive experience for me, and I am beyond grateful for the relationships I made along the way. I will remember all of the important lessons I have learned here, and I will apply those to my teaching career once I complete my schooling. Thank you so much for offering me this tremendous opportunity.