Early Childhood/Elementary Cooperating Teacher Questions

Below are some questions for you to ask your cooperating teacher. It is not necessary to ask them all, nor is it necessary to conduct a sit-down interview to get the answers. Please use this as a guide in your first week in the classroom. Get the answers you need and use this as an opportunity to build a relationship with your cooperating teacher. You do not need to turn this in.

1. What are the school’s contractual hours?
2. How should I contact you if I need to be absent?
3. Where should I keep my coat/bag?
4. What is the daily schedule?
5. May I have a drink in the classroom?
6. Where is the teacher’s restroom/lounge/workroom?
7. How can I be most helpful when you are teaching?
8. Can you tell me about your routines, procedures, and management?
9. Are there students with IEPs in your class? Am I allowed to see their files?
10. How do you collaborate with the special education teacher and support staff?
11. Is there a time for us to plan together and for us to discuss my progress?
12. Is there a set curriculum to follow? May I have access to it?
13. Do you use a grade book? A plan book?
14. How do you motivate students and keep them engaged?
15. How do you communicate with families?
16. How long have you been teaching? What grades/districts?
17. What do you like best about your job?
18. What’s the most challenging part of your job?
19. What do you wish you’d known when you started this profession?