Dear Prospective Practicum Classroom Supervisor,

Our University practicum teachers have spent many weeks planning for their work with you. We are committed to ensuring that this experience is fulfilling for everyone involved. The practicum experience you provide for our students is a major portion of what we call “Blocks,” the teaching methods courses in Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Since this will be their only practicum experience in these subject areas before student teaching, it is particularly important that each practicum student has an experience that is ideally balanced across these five discipline areas.

This semester we are asking cooperating teachers to provide practicum students with the opportunity to teach a minimum of two lessons each in social studies, language arts, and reading. These lessons could be within separate units or they could be integrated together into a unit, or they could be more “stand alone” lessons. Practicum students are also expected to develop and teach a “mini-unit” in science and another one in math (3 lessons each).

During the first week of practicum, the only formal assignment is a “patterned writing” lesson. We ask that practicum students be given an opportunity to teach this patterned writing lesson to a small group, or to the whole class, sometime during the first week of practicum.

Each of our practicum students will be supervised by one of the methods faculty. The supervisor will need to arrange a time once a week to come and observe the practicum student/s. During the fourth week of practicum, the supervisor will need to conference with the cooperating teacher about the practicum student or students in order to arrive at a clear understanding of areas of strengths or concerns.

Please contact us right away if you have any questions or concerns about any of this. Please feel free to use First Class, or below you will find our office phone numbers and email addresses. Thank you for being a part of the practicum team with us!

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