Field Tips and Other Thoughts ~ # 1

Greetings!

Thank you for your willingness to host a CCSU student teacher this semester. We know that your work as a classroom teacher goes beyond school day hours, and your willingness to serve in this important role underscores your commitment to the profession. It is our goal to support the important work you do and respond to your needs to clearly understand CCSU’s expectations. This publication is just one way we hope to communicate.

Our hope is to provide you with “bite size pieces” of the cooperating teacher handbook as well as explore topics related to your student teacher’s development. By now you should have received a packet of information from the Office of Field Experiences. We hope that you will take some time to review our Cooperating Teacher Handbook, a document written to share ideas to organize your experiences, suggestions to encourage feedback, and provide you with the nuts and bolts associated with the semester’s work. In addition to the handbook, the OFE continues to put relevant information on our website. At the end of the semester, we will ask for feedback and look to improve this vehicle of communication.

Our Semester’s Focus – Professional Dispositions

In addition to the knowledge and skills required to be an effective teacher, an individual must possess the dispositions essential to the collaborative nature of teaching. While these dispositions are discussed with our teacher candidates and assessed at the end of each semester in the professional courses, we are, for the first time, specifically assessing them during the student teaching semester.

Although the elements of professional dispositions are imbedded into our student teaching evaluation, supervisors will be explicitly discussing the elements during observations, at the midway point of the experience and again at the end. Our hope is that through ongoing conversations our student teachers will continue to grow and develop as professional educators. A link to CCSU’s professional disposition expectations can be found on our website, www.ccsu.edu/ofe.
Student Teaching “Mile Markers”

By now you probably have:

- Received the cooperating teacher packet.
- Sent in your cooperating teacher stipend paper (PINK) to the OFE.
- Scheduled a weekly meeting time with your student teacher to plan and review upcoming events.
- Discussed the lesson plan format and how you will review daily lesson plans in order to provide feedback.
- Looked at the Take-Over plan and begun to design the first few weeks of responsibilities for your student teacher.
- Met and/or spoke with your university supervisor. Perhaps your student teacher has an observation already scheduled.
- Assigned simple responsibilities such as attendance, hall duty, morning opening, etc. for your student teacher to assume.

Some items to consider for the upcoming week:

- Review the evaluation tools (midterm and final) with your student teacher.
- Discuss the first content area or period your student teacher will be taking over by the end of the week.
- Discuss upcoming units in order for the student teacher to begin to engage in research.

Cooperating Teacher Conversation

We hope you will be able to join us on Thursday, February 4th at 4:00 in Bellin A and B in the Student Center for our semester’s Cooperating Teacher Conversation. An invitation was sent to you in January. The event’s agenda can be found on our website under the Cooperating Teacher tab.

This is a great opportunity to engage in conversations that will allow us to improve on what we do.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sue Ford at 860-832-2067.