

Clinical Experience - Cooperating Teacher Letter

Wednesday, 20 December 2006

January 18, 2007

Dear Cooperating Teacher,

As a valued colleague, you are a key person in the education of our elementary school preservice teachers at the University of New England (UNE). I hope it is a win/win situation, whereby your UNE preservice teacher learns and is inspired by you and you, in turn, are energized by her/his presence and eagerness to learn. I would like to do all that I can to support you this semester as our preservice teachers are learning about the teaching life.

The course I am teaching is the Teaching of Reading. During this semester, I would like your UNE preservice teacher to have opportunities to observe your students and you as you teach reading and writing. If you feel comfortable, she/he could work with individual students and small groups of students as well.

When the preservice teacher is in the classroom, I would like her/him, with your permission, to use a journal to take notes of what goes on, noting the interaction among teachers and students. To support her/his learning about the State of Maine's Initial Certification Standards for new teachers, I would like her/him to observe and ask you about the following Standards.

1. How you make the subject matter meaningful to students? - Standard One
2. How you address the diverse ways in which students learn and develop? ? Standard Three
3. How you create and maintain a classroom environment which supports and encourages learning? - Standard Six
4. What formal and informal assessment strategies you use to evaluate and support the development of the learner? - Standard Eight

As for me, prior to coming to the University of New England, I taught for twenty plus years in Patrick Henry Elementary School in Anaheim, California, Nevitt Elementary School in Phoenix, Arizona, Somersworth Middle School in Somersworth, New Hampshire, and Frisbee Middle School in Kittery, Maine. Thank you again for being a most valuable resource for our preservice teachers and me.

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