

Looking Forward to Your First Field Experience

As I sit down to share my thoughts, I can't help but be inspired by my students and their excitement about Field Experience One. This excitement is felt in our classes as students make connections between theory and practice and prepare themselves for their first Field Experience in their BEd. Program. I'm energized by the students' curiosity, inquiry and collaboration. In building on this momentum, I have a few tips for students to make the most of this experience.

- First of all, approach Field One with a positive spirit and an open mind. You will have the opportunity to observe a number of classrooms, with diverse learners and teachers. Express gratitude to be invited into the school community and varied learning spaces.
- Continue to start shifting your lens from student to teacher. Reflect on what it means to be a professional and the expectations of field experience one. Be punctual, show initiative and see how you can be helpful in the classroom.
- You will be observing and taking a lot in. Ask questions with tact, tone and good timing.
- You will be with a cohort of students as you observe at both an elementary and secondary school. Stay connected with your peers and your Field Experience Instructor and share your learning both at the schools and through your on-line discussions.
- Make sure to get plenty of rest, eat well and be ready! A focus on wellness and well-being will help you be present, enthusiastic and keen!
- Above all, enjoy the wonderful students and learning environments that you will experience and have fun!!

Dr. Dora Kapoyannis
Director of Field Experience

Getting Connected: Knowing Your Students

Building connections with your students is of paramount importance for them to be successful. During my first practicum, I was assigned to a grade nine math class. The first week I was there, my partner teacher gave me a printout of our student's faces in their seating plan so I could learn their names faster. She pointed out one of our students and said, "This kid, he tries so hard, and it means the world to him whenever you give him a compliment about his work". That little piece of insight stuck with me throughout the whole four weeks. I understand why she told me this and why it was important.

I really tried to focus on her advice for that one student. I made sure to write positive feedback about his work whenever he would hand something in, and whenever we were going over problems and he got a question right, I would give him a high-five. This connection we made helped me understand his learning needs, and it helped him build his confidence in his own skills. It even helped me recognize when he was struggling in class with the new seating arrangement. I noticed that he seemed to disengage with this new group of students, and that the students would often work with each other, excluding him from the group. I recorded my observations, and approached my partner teacher. We moved him to a group with only two students (some of my higher achieving ones) that he was more comfortable with. After the move, his engagement went back up and he was smiling a lot more in my class.

I wouldn't have been able to recommend that change if I hadn't worked hard to make a connection to that student to understand his behaviour and what he needed to be successful. At the end of the four weeks, this student was fully engaged in my lessons, taking risks by answering questions, and smiling from ear to ear. That is why building connections with your students is crucial!

Anonymous



President's Corner



Welcome everyone, to this 2019-2020 school year! My name is Ruth Earl Panaguiton and I am this years Education Students' Association President. This edition's theme is Getting Connected. My team and I are working hard to ensure that you are well connected to your faculty. So, how can you get connected? Well, we have a variety of events and sessions that you can be a part of! We have a variety of Professional Development workshops every month with presenters from various organizations such as the ATA, Microsoft, Mindfuel and more! Also coming up with fall is ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills) training, school board information sessions, and Second Year Panel. This panel connects students in their final year of the education program with Werklund alumni who will be sharing their field three and four experiences and answering your questions about transitioning from school to the workplace. Please join us for any or all of our events and sessions! All of our information is available on our website:

<http://ucalgaryesa.weebly.com>.

It's Libra season! How fitting that our theme is Getting Connected because this is the time to network and meet people. Advice: reconnect with mentors and peers. Remember that favourite professor? This could be the time to reach out and ask for a reference. Better to ask sooner than later! Avoid: basements and dark hallways. No cell-service, no connection!

Until next time Werklund,

Ruth Earl Panaguiton

*People don't care how much you know
until they know how much you care*

Up and Coming At Werklund....

1. EDUC 440: Field Experience I:
October 14th, 2019 – October 25th,
2019

2. October Career Workshops:

- Wednesday, Oct. 16th 2-4pm;
- Monday, Oct. 21st 2-4pm;
- Wednesday, Oct. 23rd 1-3pm;
- Wednesday, Oct. 23rd 2-4pm;
- Monday, Oct. 28th 2-4pm

Please check the website for locations and registration information

3. Interdisciplinary Showcase:

Wednesday, Oct. 30th 1-4pm

**4. TAB Interested Student
Workshops**

- October, 29th 9:30-10:30am
OR 1-2pm
- November, 21st 9:30-10:30am
OR 1-2pm

5. EDUC 540: Field Experience III:
November 4th, 2019 – December 13th,
2019

**6. Fall Term Break (except for EDUC
540: Field III Students):** November
11th, 2019 – November 15th, 2019

We want to hear from YOU: The Werklund Wire is an Undergraduate Programs in Education newsletter, and that means it pertains to all things YOU! Student submissions are not only welcomed, but encouraged! Send us ideas for upcoming stories, or write one yourself! Memes, comics, and articles are also all considered!