WTQP Newsletter
Elementary
Wichita Teacher Quality Partnership
Connecting Wichita State University and the Wichita Public Schools
March 2012, Volume 3 Issue 7

WSU – PDS Academy
The Academy that was held on February 13th was well attended. Participants heard from Dr. Lynn Rhodes regarding possible solutions to common obstacles in a PDS program. Cooperating Teachers also had the opportunity to learn co-teaching strategies and lesson ideas from fellow teachers, KPTP expectations from Dr. Kim McDowell and had the opportunity to ask questions of Dr. Rhodes to grow as part of a partnership site. Many elected to enroll in grant supported credit. Our next Academy will be held on March 26th at 4:30 – 7:30 at JFISC if you have not signed up on My learning plan please do so and join us. Come learn how to support PDS teacher education candidates/teacher interns and increase your student achievement. Network with colleagues, learn, and develop skills in mentoring, co-teaching, data driven conversations, and changes in the WSU teacher education programs. Future opportunities will be available this summer and beyond to earn grant supported college credit for your important role in your professional development school.

Wichita Public Schools Dates to Remember
Mar. 15 – District In-Service Day
Mar. 16 – Non-teaching Duty Day
Mar. 16 – 23 Spring Recess
Apr. 6 – Conference Release Day
Apr. 30 – District In-Service Day

Wichita State University Dates to Remember
March 5 & 7 – Monday/Wednesday Core 2a and 2b field experience days
March 6 & 8 - Tuesday/Thursday Core 2a and 2b field experience days
March 9 – Mid-point of 15-week placement
March 26 – WSU Academy Workshop at JFISC
March 27 – Performance Assessment due (KPTP or TWS)

STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS
Teacher Interns and teacher education candidates have been asking if they should be in the schools during State of Kansas testing.
While the lack of classroom activity during assessments is often true, we encourage each of you to invite your WSU candidate to still regularly attend and observe how your school performs assessment duties. Since these future teachers will one day be involved in their schools’ standardized test completion, it is important for them to experience the event and consider the teacher’s role in state standardized assessments.
Furthermore, we encourage each of you to share your personal experiences and strategies for helping students prepare and successfully complete standardized assessments. Thank you again for welcoming our WSU teacher education candidates into your classroom this semester and providing quality learning experiences.

15 Ways to Get Students Involved with Learning
1. Help students set goals so they can work with a purpose.
2. Use hands-on activities whenever you can.
3. Include high-level thinking skills in every lesson.
4. Give sincere praise.
5. Encourage students to collaborate.
6. Design activities to engage students in more dialog
7. Use tangible rewards.
8. Show students how they can use their learning in other classes.
9. Use a variety of media, such as music or art.
10. Send home positive notes.
11. Display, post, or publish student work.
12. Display inspirational banners, posters, and quotations.
13. Give students real-life problems to solve.
14. Make sure that your expectations are high.

Just the Facts
Did you know that over 180 WSU Coop students are now placed in schools this semester? Last Spring 98 where in teacher quality partnership schools and 94% expressed satisfaction with their placement. This Spring there are 348 cooperating teachers making a difference in the lives of future teachers. Last spring 96% of those who took teacher licensure examinations passed. Thank you to all the cooperating teachers who supported WSU Interns to succeed in gaining Kansas licensure.

Involved with Learning

Adapted from The First-Year Teacher’s Survival Guide
Julia G. Thompson

WSU Academy Workshop at JFISC
March 26
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Lunch and Learn at Colvin Elementary

Dr. Lynn Rhodes, Dean Emeritus of College of Education, University of Co.

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