**STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS**

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.

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

**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.

**Wichita Public Schools**

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15</td>
<td>District In-Service Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>Non-teaching Duty Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16-23</td>
<td>Spring Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 6</td>
<td>Conference Release Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 30</td>
<td>District In-Service Day</td>
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**Wichita State University**

Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Last Day for 1st 8-week split placement (P.E., Foreign Language, Art &amp; Music Interns)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Mid-term Intern Evaluation Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16-23</td>
<td>Spring Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 26</td>
<td>WSU Academy Workshop at JFISC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 27</td>
<td>Intern Performance Assessment Due (KPTP or TWS)</td>
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**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.

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**Dr. Lynn Rhodes,**  
Dean emeritus of College of Education, University of Colorado