

Survey comments from the 1st Year Elementary Ed Teachers:

- 1 Overall, NWC education program was excellent. I felt that I learned a lot in the classroom and now out in the field I am learning more and pulling from what I have already learned to make my teaching the best that I can.
- 2 Many times I catch myself thinking, "Thank you, Northwestern Education Dept.!" Through in class discussions and in field experiences I truly learned so much that directly applies to my career today. From classroom management strategies to creativity to simply loving my students... thank you NWC education professors for helping me grow into the teacher I am today; one that continues to learn with her students. I feel that Northwestern has an especially fantastic special education program. I value that I knew how to read and write an IEP right away!

I think its so overwhelming the first year that sometimes we forget all that we learned in college. It slowly comes back to us as we go on. One thing I do appreciate (although I didn't at the time) was how reflective I have become in my lessons. (What can I do better next time?) One struggle I am having was how to teach different things. I understand that each class does not have enough time to go through how to teach fractions, time, and money etc., but that was one thing I think I would have appreciated. Maybe how to teach different levels and break it up into primary and intermediate. Spend two weeks on teaching math at the primary level and then two weeks at the intermediate level and do this with all subjects - What is our main goal at each level? One thing I know I will be doing this summer is going through my college classes and seeing what ideas I wrote down and use them next year. I know every experience is different and it is nearly impossible to touch base on everything in every subject, but those have been some of my thoughts.

Thanks for everything!

- 4 This first year has flown by and I have had an absolute blast. I have a group of amazing students and I love them all very dearly. Since the beginning of the year I have gotten 5 new students and am in the process of getting several more. There is definitely a need of a special education teacher at this school and I am so glad that I was positioned here. My student teaching in special education definitely prepared me for the work that I am doing here and helped me become the teacher I am today. The special education classes I took, especially the collaboration with other students in those classes, helped me with this position as well. I am very blessed to be in a Christian environment, even though I work for the public school district. I couldn't have asked for a better position.
- 5 As a special education teacher, it would have been nice to have a better understanding of the IEP process. Perhaps a course solely about this would be beneficial in the education program.



Survey comments from the 1st YearSecondary Ed Teachers:

1 I think the hardest part this year has been managing the classroom / creating a classroom environment that is challenging yet high energy and engaging. I think many of the things we did in college classes were somehow set apart from what actually happens in a classroom--where students are talking and disruptive, on their cell phones, pressured to cheat during a test, and negative towards the teacher and others. My overall experience has been positive, don't get me wrong, but I don't think I was adequately prepared to handle what ACTUALLY happens in the classroom on a daily basis. I was prepared well with a sense of what education is and how a teacher is a servant, and all of those educational philosophy components. I just wasn't as well prepared for the other things that go along with it.

It's hard, because at times the only way to LEARN something is to just try and do it. But in doing it that way, there are many mistakes to be made---as I've experienced this year. I hope next year will be much less of a bumpy ride for teaching. Thank you for what you did to bring me to this step--I am grateful to God for his plan in my life.

- As in any job, so much just has to be learned "on-the-job," but I really felt like I was wellprepared to get a job and establish myself as a teacher. If there was one thing I wish I would have focused on/learned more about, it would be the technology. My school really pushes anything from teacher websites, to student blogging, and now my school is going 1:1 for student laptops next year.
- 3 Thank you for all of your work!! :)
- 4 NW did an excellent job of preparing me to create engaging and effective lessons. The area in which I felt least prepared was teaching students with behavior disorders.

5 Northwestern has done an exceptional job at preparing myself for my content area in biology. I have had no problem at all. One thing that I really appreciated about NW was the way in which we were exposed to so many different technology items that we face in the teaching profession.

I think it will be really important to explore technology as many school are stressing it. Online resumes, teacher websites, moodle, JMC, Iowa Core, and teaching standards are all