

MG Partnership Forum Feedback
SPRING 2020*

Information or updates, including anticipated changes, on the upcoming school year to help us best prepare our teacher candidates:

Things are up in the air for next year. I'm following recommendation and news updates. We are meeting tomorrow as a faculty, so perhaps things will be more concrete then. The distancing plans I have seen recommended by the CDC seem not feasible. There was a proposal to the SBE for distance learning plans to be more uniform and this seems like a great idea!

Planning for teacher workdays to be partially online teaching days, requirement for all assignments to be represented on Google Classroom, etc.

We don't know yet! JCPS and TCS are waiting, but we are thinking we'll have blended learning with smaller group sizes in the fall.

With the current situation, as much technology training as you can provide would benefit teacher candidates greatly.

Suggestions of ideas or topics that might be incorporated into our candidates' experience to enable them to better assist in the upcoming school year:

I think it will be valuable to try to use an integrated approach to teaching content, where students are reading and writing about their content learning in core classes of science, social studies and math. Students need to be interactive on zoom type lessons for social connection, as well as for assistance. Each kid has differences in learning preferences, motivation and problem solving. Students seem to like 1:1 check ins.

G Suite is such a huge part of teaching now, and while it is gone over at WCU, it is used extensively: each lesson I must have linked to Google Classroom, the class calendar must be updated and linked, I must give quizzes through Google Forms, etc., and this has been intensified with the availability and necessity of online learning.

I think undergrads are already good digital communicators, and that seems like the most important thing to me.

I think particularly knowing how to teach students content and have them practice more independently like in stations would be helpful.

How can we strengthen our partnership during our current challenges and beyond these trying times?

The experience of this fall was so sudden and intense, that I think upon reflection and growth in the fall, teachers will be better suited for collaboration. Surviving can move into thriving (moreso). I think WCU students will play a valuable roll in motivating and connecting with students.

Continue to train wonderful, prepared, whole rounded teachers.

I'm not sure-- I know TCS is usually full of undergrads observing/doing field experience/ interning, so I assume we'll still try to do all those things.

Perhaps having a google classroom everyone could contribute to would be helpful or a platform to collaborate would benefit both teachers, like myself, as well as your pre-service teachers.

Other Info:

Our teachers seem to want to streamline all using Canvas, or Teams, or Google Classroom. It would be interesting to survey people (current students or college students based on their experiences) whether it's worth all going with one platform, or using teacher preference. My children seem to like one platform and they are using all three in school.

You could have your WCU students given access to a "real" teacher's Google Classroom for the year so they can see the entirety of the setup, can try out the quizzes, etc. Could even have said teacher do mini lessons on how to set up the different pieces! I would be willing to help with this if it is of interest. (Elizabeth Vickery)

It's so surreal right now- my intern "taught" on Canvas for a few weeks, but didn't get any good teaching experience, so I am thinking that the face-to-face blending is a really important piece for us to work on; without knowing when we will see our students in the fall, though, I am having a hard time wrapping my head around what it would look like. Man, I'm not much help. Ask me in August and I can be more helpful!

Not currently. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

*Due to COVID-19, we sought feedback from our partners via an online format.

Invited Members of the Advisory Board:

Amanda Clapp
Alex Swanger
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