

METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT AND GWYNEDD MERCY UNIVERSITY

TEACHER TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

APRIL 5, 2022



HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP

- Informal process
- Placement of some Gwynedd Mercy University education major student observers and student teachers in Methacton School District schools
- Methacton administrators participate in panel discussions with Gwynedd Mercy students

CREATING A MORE FORMALIZED STRUCTURE

- Gwynedd Mercy must secure placements for education major students to complete observation hours and student teaching experiences
- Methacton is seeking an advantage in the increasingly competitive market for contracted teachers and substitute teachers
- A formalized partnerships between the two institutions would help to ensure that:
 - Gwynedd Mercy gains experienced, willing cooperating teachers to mentor and grow their education major students
 - Methacton gains the opportunity to mold future teachers and substitute teachers who can then join the pool of qualified teaching candidates and substitute teacher candidates

PROGRAM DESIGN

- Commence in Fall 2022
- 10 Gwynedd Mercy students identified through an interview process each year
- Students majoring in Elementary Education and/or Special Education
- Students would be paired two each at the four K-4 buildings and Skyview
- Students supervised by Dr. Cheryl Malfi, Director of Field Placement at Gwynedd Mercy
- Students would progress as a cohort through the Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP)
- Participation of MSD cooperating teachers would be voluntary

PROGRAM PROGRESSION

- **Freshman Year:** TAP program; 12 Wednesdays/semester at Methacton school
- **Sophomore Year:** TAP program; 12 Wednesdays/semester at Methacton school
- **Junior Year:** Pre-student teaching; 14 Wednesdays per semester at Methacton school with three (3) onsite visits from the Gwynedd pre-student teaching supervisor
- **Senior Year:** Student Teaching –Student teaching for sixteen (16) weeks at Methacton school (either fall or spring) with six (6) onsite visits from the Gwynedd Mercy student teaching supervisor (MSD cooperating teacher is compensated through Gwynedd Mercy with a free, three-credit course through the Graduate Studies program)

THE ROLE OF THE GWYNEDD MERCY STUDENT IN THE METHACTON CLASSROOM

- All Gwynedd Mercy students would secure proper clearances before participating in this program
- Maximum of 10 Gwynedd Mercy students in a cohort across five MSD schools
- TAP Freshman and Sophomore Years – primarily observation with some instructional and supervisory assistance
- Pre-Student Teaching: continued observation, small group assistance, some whole class instruction under the supervision of MSD cooperating teacher and Gwynedd Mercy supervisor
- Student Teaching: instruction under the direct supervision of MSD cooperating teacher and Gwynedd Mercy supervisor

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- After four years at full implementation, maximum of 40 Gwynedd Mercy students placed in MSD schools
- MSD assists in training future teachers who emerge from program ready to enter job market for contracted positions
- After completion of 60 credit hours, Gwynedd Mercy students can apply to STS and become substitute teachers when college semesters conclude (December, January, May, June)
- Gwynedd Mercy students provide assistance to MSD teachers and students

METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
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GROWING FUTURE TEACHERS TOGETHER

