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NIU Pre-Service Teacher's Name



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NORTHERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

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DEPARTMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING  
DEKALB, ILLINOIS 60115-2845  
(815) 753-1619  
FAX (815) 753-8594

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This semester, your child will have the opportunity to experience a series of lessons and activities which will be created by your child's pre-service teacher from Northern Illinois University. We would like to introduce these activities to you and ask your permission to allow your child/ward to participate in these learning experiences.

**Your child will be asked to do only the highlighted activity.**

The Mathematics activity will be a 20-25 minute interview structured to help your child reflect on a specific mathematics topic taught at the elementary level. The interview questions are meant to see how your child views a mathematics problem with algorithms, real-world situations, and manipulatives.

Your child will be asked what he/she knows about a particular concept that is taught in Social Studies at his/her grade level. After completing a lesson on that concept with the whole class, your child will again be asked to reflect on what he/she understands about the concept. The pre-teaching interview and post-teaching interview should not last more than 15 minutes each.

The Literacy activities include a content area reading lesson plan and an informal reading test. This informal assessment will help the pre-service teacher estimate the grade levels at which your child can read independently and those at which your child will learn the most when given appropriate instruction.

The Science activity will include an assessment about a particular science concept taught at grade level. Your child may be asked to participate in an interview, a paper and pencil task, or a simple science exploration. The process should take no longer than 15-20 minutes.

Participation in these activities is voluntary. Your child's regular classroom teacher will supervise the process. Your child will be asked to indicate agreement prior to participation. Of course, he/she will be free to stop at any time. The activities are non-threatening and should be enjoyable for your child. Your child's participation will also help us prepare better teachers.

If you have any questions about the assignment or the preservice teacher, please contact the appropriate professor at the email or phone number listed below. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

If you have questions about these activities, please feel free to contact us at Northern Illinois University.

Social Studies: Mary Beth Henning, Ph.D. (E-Mail: [mhenning@niu.edu](mailto:mhenning@niu.edu))

Literacy: Doug Williamson, M.S. Ed. (Email: [dwilliamson@niu.edu](mailto:dwilliamson@niu.edu))

Mathematics: Alan Zollman, Ph.D. (Email: [zollman@math.niu.edu](mailto:zollman@math.niu.edu))

Science: Sheldon Woods, Ph.D. (Email: [swoods@niu.edu](mailto:swoods@niu.edu))

*I agree to allow my child/ward to participate in these teaching activities and acknowledge that I have received a copy of this consent form. Please return to your child's teacher.*

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

(Please return to your student's teacher. Thank you!)