



August, 2011

Dear Principal,

Thank you for allowing our students to be placed with your teachers for practicum this semester. As you know, this is critical to their preparation as teachers. Field experiences allow them to link the theory and knowledge that they are gaining in their university classes with observation and participation in best practice. It also provides them with the opportunity to demonstrate their performance as a beginning teacher with supportive feedback from mentor teachers and supervisors.

JMU students placed in PreK classrooms are in the Inclusive Early Childhood Education program which is a new program that models the collaborative teaching model that is more and more common in PreK-3 classrooms. The students will be dually endorsed in early childhood regular education and early childhood special education. Students will be placed one morning a week in an inclusive PreK classroom. Their focus will be on observing developmental milestones and collecting data to validate children's development.

Dr. Laura Desportes and I will be the points of contact for this practicum and will be visiting all of the PreK placements in Augusta County.

We do appreciate your commitment and that of your faculty and staff. The preparation of future teachers is something that can only be done with the cooperation of university and school-based professionals.

Sincerely,

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