First Year Teacher Academy Class 2012

Wylie ISD welcomed thirty-five First Year Teachers for the 2012-2013 school year.

The FYTs began their induction to the District engaged in discussions focused on classroom management and support systems provided by the Wylie ISD mentoring and induction program.

Mentor teachers joined the FYTs in the afternoon to help facilitate a guided Model Classroom tour hosted at various campuses across the district.

David Riley, Draper IS: Implementing Procedures

Jennifer Wiseman (4th Gr.), Smith ES
Chrissie Ezell (ELAR), Davis IS
Katie Gauthier (Math), Cooper JH

Host teachers were available to answer questions, explain procedures utilized in their classrooms, and provide insight concerning systems they employ for organization of materials, grading, and transitions between classroom activities.

Visiting multiple grade levels and content areas enables the novice teachers to experience commonalities among all teachers and their instructional environments while being exposed to the different styles and approaches used by several master teachers.

First Year Teacher Academy activities for the year will include small group observation visits to eleven Wylie ISD campuses. Each small group will visit one school and at least two classrooms related to their content/grade level. Campus administrators will act as group facilitators who will assist the FYTs with observation focus areas and provide background information. FYTs will have the opportunity in the spring to revisit the same classrooms to compare and contrast what they have seen.

Instructional Observation Requests

As Wylie ISD moves forward with university partnerships and support of those who are seeking teacher certification via alternative programs, it is necessary to have an organized system to process requests as well as track those who will visit campuses. To support this process, the HR department has added a link to its webpage under HR Links: Student Teaching & Instructional Observations.

District protocol: 1. Observer completes Criminal Background check & Classroom Observation forms. 2. Submit completed forms to Wylie ISD HR office. 3. HR will contact & arrange classroom observations. 4. HR will communicate contact information to observer and/or program.
Welcome Student Teachers & Interns!

Wylie ISD is hosting forty-two student teachers and interns on various campuses this fall. The District is excited to play a part in shaping and supporting future colleagues.

The District has created a well-balanced and “real-world” experience for interns and student teachers. All participants have been paired with appropriate master teachers in their certification areas and were asked to begin with the Wylie ISD campus professionals during Back-to-School Week; Monday, August 20, 2012 through Friday, August 24, 2012.

Student teachers and interns accompanied their cooperating teachers during campus professional development, Job Alike/Role Alike, student home visits, and general classroom preparation events. These activities enabled the students to experience first-hand all the preparation that goes into being a true educator who is prepared and charged with teaching our children. In addition, many Wylie ISD Cooperating Teachers communicated and met regularly throughout the summer months with students.

On Thursday, August 23, 2012, student teachers and interns attended the Wylie ISD Student Teacher Orientation which included a brief history of the District, presentations on classroom management and use of technology in the classroom.

First Year Teachers Collaborate with Colleagues

First Year Teachers spent quality time with their experienced colleagues collaborating and learning the new CSCOPE curriculum during Back-to-School Week.

Teachers throughout the district worked together to design engaging lessons for students. Small groups were flexible during preparation. Horizontal cross-curricular groups met to discuss, compare, and contrast content standards and expectations. Vertical alignment was also reviewed and reinforced to ensure students would be exposed to all prerequisite material and internalize content information in order to prevent learning gaps and promote seamless connections among all curricula.

Assistant Principals Provide Valuable Feedback

Providing constructive feedback to student teachers during their practicum experience can be valuable to both the novice and the administrative observer.

Assistant principals have been asked to provide student teachers with a 10-15 minute preconference, 30-45 minute classroom observation, and a brief 10-15 minute post conference reflective of student’s instructional presentation and content knowledge. Cooperating teachers will offer support throughout the process.

This experience will be beneficial to both the student teachers and the District when considering candidates for future employment. Wylie ISD views its partnerships and participation supporting future educator programs as a unique opportunity and a major advantage in its recruiting efforts.
Wally Watkins ES, Host to UNT Interns

Wylie ISD has entered into a three year commitment to host student interns from the University of North Texas. This partnership identifies Wally Watkins ES as a Professional Development School location for the UNT College of Education.

Watkins ES administrators, Jennifer Speicher and Shawnell Bradshaw, with the entire Watkins faculty and staff, have gone out of their way to provide a superior classroom space and welcoming atmosphere for the UNT students.

The first cadre is a combined group consisting of interns completing observations in Wylie ISD and Plano ISD. All UNT students participate in classes, taught by UNT professors, located at Wally Watkins ES. UNT interns spend Mondays and Tuesdays at their assigned campuses and participate in university classes held on Wednesdays and Thursdays in Wylie ISD during the Fall Semester.

Beginning Spring Semester, UNT students will become “full-fledged” student teachers and spend Monday through Friday on their host campuses. This full-year experience allows students to be involved in beginning, middle, and end of year activities such as the opening of school and state standardized testing period.

Student Observers Descend on District

As of September 24, 2012 Wylie ISD has welcomed thirty-three student observers in over eighty District classrooms. These visits provide teacher certification candidates the chance to see firsthand how master teachers deliver state curriculum, manage their classrooms, communicate with students and peers, and design lessons to engage students of multiple learning styles and abilities.

To ensure that university students are exposed to a variety of teaching styles and delivery methods, each is given a list of contacts identifying qualified teachers in the appropriate content areas and grade levels.

Campus administrators have been overwhelmingly supportive of this initiative and gracious hosts and hostesses.

HR Department Providing Opportunities

The Human Resources department extends an invitation to all student teachers and interns to apply for substitute teaching positions which become available after their student teaching obligations to their perspective university and certification programs have been fulfilled.

Partnerships with universities and alternative certification programs enable Wylie ISD to expose many individuals; students, university and program directors and coordinators; to all it has to offer while getting a “first look” at potential employees for future positions.
Continued Growth
Expected for Wylie ISD

Wylie ISD has continued to grow. Currently, enrollment stands right around 13,500 students. This number is up from 12,926 students during the 2011-2012 school year.

Increased student enrollment directly influences the number of classroom teachers needed in our schools.

Dr. David Vinson, Superintendent of Schools, along with the Wylie ISD Board of Trustees, believes it is important for parents, teachers, and community members to understand the District’s enrollment growth and the impact it has on campus capacities, personnel, and budget.

For timely updates and an insight to Wylie ISD, please check out the following sites:

Superintendent’s Blog
Wylie ISD Profile Page
Wylie Way Videos