***Quotes from Freshmen***

**Kelly Edinger**

**Childhood Education Major, Math 7-9 Extension**

*Participated in a freshmen education course taught on-site at Dunkirk School #7 linked to a field experience.*

“This is such a great opportunity for perspective teachers because we get to see what it is like to be in the classroom. Not only do we see the behind the scenes of grading, and creating lessons, but we also get to form relationships with the students. It is the highlight of my day when I walk into the classroom and see the children smile or say that they missed me. My cooperating teacher is such a great model teacher to learn from! She is always giving me advice and is willing to answer any questions that I have. By observing classroom management skills that she uses, I have learned many that I plan to use in the future.

Throughout the field placement I am learning that this is truly what I want to do for the rest of my life. Seeing the face a child makes once they understand what you have taught them, is priceless. Everyday is so rewarding and during the field experience you really get to see what being a teacher is like.

It has also taught me how much preparation needs to occur for the day. Every day in the classroom is different and doesn’t go exactly how you planned. The fact that as a freshman I’m already in the field, learning how to make adjustments to my lessons, makes me very excited to learn even more throughout the years.”

**Natalie Buck**

**Childhood Inclusive Education Major, Math 7-9 Extension**

*Participated in a freshmen education course taught on-site at Dunkirk School #7 linked to a field experience.*

“I am learning about how a classroom is run on a day-to-day basis and what third graders learn. In my classroom I learned that brisk pace is necessary for students attention to be maintained. I also learned that student dynamics in a class differs when certain children sit with other children. This goes along with the importance of seating arrangements and keeping children who need assistance staying on task closer to the teacher.”

I love going to my field placement. I like that I have class in the library and then walk down the hallway to my classroom. In the morning when all the children arrive, my partner and I greet the students. It’s very special because I am getting to know not only my students but also the rest of the schools students, as well as staff. Another thing I love about field placement is when I get the opportunity to help students individually. I recently helped a student struggling with a time elapsed clock problem in math, and just a week earlier learned about that in Math for School Teachers (EDU 301). When I explained to the student how I had learned it just a week ago, the student was more receptive to understanding it, and could complete the problem by himself. It felt good to know I had just helped him understand something he wouldn’t have necessarily understood without my guidance.”

**Danielle Consaul**

**Childhood Inclusive Education Major**

*Participated in a freshmen education course taught on-site at Dunkirk School #7 linked to a field experience.*

“I have learned different aspects of what teaching is about during my field experience. Specifically, classroom management, student’s behavior management, and what it’s like being in front of a room full of students. Additionally, I am learning about how different students learn and how to accommodate their needs and how to keep high expectations for your class to maintain control. And most of all I am learning about each of the students. I have built relationships with each of them as individuals and I learn more about them each day. Whether it is about how they work, what their favorite color is, or about their vacation last summer, I have connected with them and this is something that will be a huge part of teaching.

It is nice that we can go right from our class to our placement with just a few steps. We also have the opportunity to see how the students act around us. They also get to see that we too have to sit in class and learn like they do. You see how much they actually watch every step that you make. I mainly picked Fredonia because it is the only school that as a freshman you are already in a classroom getting experience.

In this placement I work with a partner. Although I know that when I become a teacher with a classroom of my own, I will most likely not have a partner teacher, I have learned that whether it’s the teacher down the hall, or your partner teacher, it is always good to have someone to brainstorm with or bounce ideas off of. I will definitely take away from this experience knowledge on how to manage a classroom. As a teacher it is your job to make sure that every student is learning in a way that is best for him/her. You want to provide material in which they will understand. I need to be ready to teach ideas in more than one way. Just because one student understands it does not mean another does. Through this experience one of the biggest things that I will take with me is that not everything is going to happen according to plan and you need to be ready for that, have back-up plan for everything.”

I learned about Response to Intervention (RTI), Data Driven Instruction, and Common Core Learning Standards. By making the mini-lesson plans I am able to focus on the Common Core Learning Standards. Everything that you teach the class you have to make sure follows the curriculum. It is way more important than I knew before.”