***Quotes from Juniors***

**Brittany Toapha**

**Early Childhood/Childhood Education Major**

*Participated in the junior level Forestville Elementary School After School Field Experience while taking EDU 305.*

“From my field placement at Forestville Elementary, I learned many new strategies for teaching students. I can honestly say that before I entered into my placement , I was extremely nervous to work with 6th graders because all of my previous placements were in 3rd grade and younger. Little did I know that it would be one of the most beneficial experiences that I would have in my undergraduate program. With the data about our specific students and their levels of learning, my partner and I worked cooperatively to plan engaging and stimulating lessons, using the SIOP model. I was able to test out different methods for adequate classroom management and how to deal with various types of student behavior. I became better informed of the Common Core State Standards and how to include them in premeditated lessons. This placement has prepared me for student teaching and has given me the confidence to not only prepare a provoking lesson plan, but stimulate critical thinking, while still focusing on student’s individual needs and interests. I had the chance to apply everything I had been learning in my classes, as well as previous field experiences, and experiment with what is successful and what is not. I believe that in order to be an indispensable educator, you must experience as much as possible and become exposed to a variety of situations.”

**Jennifer Smith**

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

*Participated in the junior education courses taught on-site at Jamestown Love School linked to a field experience.*

“I had many wonderful experiences while having my field placement at Love Elementary School. I learned a great deal about teaching through my cooperating teacher and was able to experience many different ethnicities within one room. I was able to observe how different cultures come together to learn and interact. This field experience allowed me to learn classroom management skills and allowed me to interact heavily with the children.

Having the course and the field experience in the same school allowed me to get into the classroom right away. This allowed me more interaction time with the students and greater opportunity to create lesson plans and even give my own spin to the lessons. This field placement made me feel as though I was a mini "student teacher." My cooperating teacher allowed for my partner and me to take control of the lessons and gave us opportunity to help with the students as much as possible.

Although I feel like I still have a lot to learn if I want to be the best teacher that I can be, I feel as though this experience in EDU 305 has given me the chance to feel more comfortable about teaching and excited for student teaching and pursing a teaching career.”

**Mackenzie Caldwell**

**Childhood Inclusive Education Major**

*Participated in the junior education courses taught on-site at Silver Creek Elementary School linked to a field experience.*

“This field experience was so valuable because I was able to see how students behave in many different situations. I participated in fire drills, school lock downs, as well as assemblies. It was such a wonderful opportunity to witness how students react during these different situations.

From this particular field experience I gained valuable knowledge to help my future career. I had one student in my third grade classroom that was reading at a kindergarten level. I was able to witness the process of being considered for an IEP as an insider. It was so beneficial to see this student receive the proper resources he needed and I was able to see him improve as my time with him went on.”

**Theodore Halpin**

**Childhood Inclusive Education Major**

*Participated in the junior education course taught on-site at Silver Creek Elementary School linked to a field experience.*

“I learned an incredible amount from this past field experience. One of the best things that I learned was how to manage my classroom. Being around a teacher that had tremendous classroom management skills was amazing. I loved how the cooperating teacher allowed me to be so involved in the classroom and helped me with my lessons plans/ teaching skills whenever I asked. This was the best field placement that I was in throughout my time at Fredonia so far. Having a class with students with disabilities gave me first hand experience on how incredibly tough it is to teach them at times. It taught me amazing patience and new ways of approaching my teaching skills.

Being on site was the best because I didn’t have to worry about being late to class and it allowed our whole class to be in the school environment all day. This gave us the opportunity to be able to witness what we learned in the classroom at the school.

For me this experience helped prepare me for the future because my cooperating teacher and I had many talks about what student teaching was like and what I should expect. She helped me prepare my lessons and gave me advise after the lessons were done. In the end I was asked to do my student teaching with her which was amazing.”