

Math 324 – Supervised Observation/Participation in Elementary Mathematics (2 credits)

General Course Description:

Math 324, a non-graded (Pass/Fail) course, is a co-requisite for Math 323, and consists of a one day per week field experience in a public school. Math 324 was designed to give pre-service teachers “hands-on” experience in order to increase your awareness of and appreciation for the complexities involved in teaching. You will be observing teachers teaching mathematics, and children learning mathematics within the context of the elementary public school curriculum. Within your role as classroom observer and participant, you will have the opportunity to reflect on concepts and theories discussed in class. Math 324 will allow you to put learning to practice as you assume *some** responsibilities for **observing, planning, preparing, teaching, applying, and assessing** the mathematics activities of the elementary school students.

Course Objectives:

(Objectives listed all address NCTM Standard 14: Field-based Experiences, Standard 8: Pedagogy and Standard 7: Dispositions. Process Standards 1-6 and Content standards 9-13 are addressed to varying degrees according to individual lessons)

- To develop an increased awareness and appreciation of teaching mathematics in the elementary school classroom
- To develop an increased knowledge base and repertoire of professional skills related to:
 - ❖ teaching styles
 - ❖ classroom management
 - ❖ instructional and behavioral objectives
 - ❖ planning for instruction
 - ❖ instructional groupings
 - ❖ usage of manipulative materials and technology
 - ❖ integration of mathematics into other disciplines
 - ❖ assessing the skill/concept development of elementary school students
 - ❖ observing and using questioning techniques

Course Requirements:

1. Attend ALL ___ weekly field placement sessions (If you have to miss a day, it is **YOUR responsibility** to make up the day. Please inform me when you are making up the day.)
 2. Participate to the full extent asked of you by your cooperating/mentor teacher/Principal.
 3. Demonstrate compliance with University, state, county, and local school rules, regulations, protocols, and expectations, and act in a professional manner.
 - Please dress in an appropriate and professional manner (but remember you will be interacting with your students and the environment). You do NOT need to dress in a suit, but no jeans, shorts, flip-flops, T-shirts, pajamas, see-through or revealing clothing, etc.
 4. Respect the knowledge and experience of your cooperating teacher, appreciate his or her role as classroom leader and contribute to enhancing the climate and community of the class (and the school).
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5. Complete all assignments **on time**. Point deductions for late assignment in Math 323 or Math 324 will be reflected in your Math 323 grade.
6. Honor the confidentiality of all that you see and hear in the classroom. If you have a concern about a student, please address it directly with your mentor teacher.
7. Please refrain from cell phone use while in your placement. If you must make or take a call, please discuss this with your mentor teacher first.

Sample Course Assignments:

[Note: The list below gives a generic description of minimum assignments. Instructors will explicitly define and describe each, maintaining and including the alignment to the standards.]

NCTM Standard 14: Field-based Experiences, Standard 8: Pedagogy, Standard 7: Dispositions.

Non-Graded Assignments:

1. **Journal Reflections** (___) (see attached). Due the lecture class after each placement day.
2. Submitting “**Overall Assessment**” (to be completed by mentor teacher.) This assignment gives Towson University important feedback on your performance at your placement.

Graded Assignments (in conjunction with Math 323):

1. Planning/teaching/reflecting on 1-2 mathematics lessons (NCTM Standards 14, 1-6, 8 and 9-13 as appropriate)
2. Planning/using/reflecting on diagnostic interview or an assessment assignment to assess a child's knowledge of a mathematical topic (NCTM 8.1, 8.3, 8.4)
3. Additional assignments will vary.

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